

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

Description of the Office of the State Auditor

The mission of the Office of the State Auditor is to oversee local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local governmental financial activities.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 150 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 3,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

Audit Practice - conducts financial and legal compliance audits of local governments;

Government Information - collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

Legal/Special Investigations - provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

Pension - monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for approximately 700 public pension funds; and

Tax Increment Financing - promotes compliance and accountability in local governments' use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employees Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2014



**Audit Practice Division
Office of the State Auditor
State of Minnesota**

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

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AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

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AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**ORGANIZATION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014**

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Elected		
Commissioners		
District 1	Mark Wedel*	December 2018
District 2	Laurie Westerlund**	December 2016
District 3	Donald Niemi	December 2018
District 4	Brian Napstad	December 2016
District 5	Anne Marcotte	December 2018
Attorney	Jim Ratz	December 2018
Auditor	Kirk Peysar	December 2018
Recorder	Michael Moriarty	December 2018
Sheriff	Scott Turner	December 2018
Treasurer	Lori Grams	December 2018
Appointed		
Administrator	Nathan Burkett	Indefinite
Assessor	Mike Dangers	December 2016
Engineer	John Welle	December 2016
Coroner	Dr. M. B. McGee	Indefinite
Health and Human Services Director	Tom Burke	Indefinite
Land Commissioner	Mark Jacobs	Indefinite
Veterans Service Officer	Penny Harms	Indefinite

*Chair
**Vice Chair

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REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of County Commissioners
Aitkin County
Aitkin, Minnesota

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Aitkin County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control

relevant to the County's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Aitkin County as of December 31, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and Required Supplementary Information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Aitkin County's basic financial statements. The supplementary information as listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial

statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 28, 2015, on our consideration of Aitkin County’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Aitkin County’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by OMB Circular A-133

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by OMB Circular A-133 and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the SEFA is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

September 28, 2015

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
DECEMBER 31, 2014
(Unaudited)**

Aitkin County's Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) provides an overview of the County's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. Since this information is designed to focus on the current year's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts, it should be read in conjunction with the County's financial statements.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Governmental activities have a total net position of \$118,646,864, of which \$88,419,341 is the investment in capital assets, and \$6,414,342 is restricted to specific purposes.
- Business-type activities have a total net position of \$3,067,278. Investment in capital assets represents \$3,627,985 of the total. Of the total business-type net position, \$2,036 is restricted for specific uses.
- Aitkin County's net position increased by \$3,403,169 for the year ended December 31, 2014. Of the increase, \$3,650,915 was in governmental activities, and there was a decrease of \$247,746 in business-type activities.
- The cost of governmental activities increased by \$303,203 to \$26,577,520 for the current fiscal year. Program revenues of \$13,508,036 offset those costs. A portion of the net cost was funded by general revenues and other items totaling \$16,720,399.
- Governmental funds' fund balances increased by \$2,303,374.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This MD&A is intended to serve as an introduction to the basic financial statements. Aitkin County's basic financial statements consist of three parts: government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The MD&A (this section) and certain budgetary comparison schedules are required to accompany the basic financial statements and, therefore, are included as required supplementary information.

There are two government-wide financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the County as a whole and present a longer-term view of the County's finances. Fund financial statements report the County's operation in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the County's most significant funds. For governmental activities, these statements tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. The remaining statements provide financial information about activities for which the County acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of those outside of the government.

Government-Wide Financial Statements--Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities report information about the County as a whole and about the activities in a way that helps the reader determine whether the County's financial condition has improved or declined as a result of the year's activities. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the County's net position and changes in them. You can think of the County's net position, the difference between assets and liabilities, as one way to measure the County's financial health or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the County's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. You will need to consider other nonfinancial factors, however, such as changes in the County's property tax base and the condition of County roads, to assess the overall health of the County.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, we divide the County into two kinds of activities:

Governmental activities--Most of the County's basic services are reported here, including general government, public safety, highways and streets, sanitation, human services, health, culture and recreation, conservation of natural resources, and economic development. Property taxes and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.

Business-type activities--The County charges a fee to customers to help it cover all or most of the costs of these services it provides. The Long Lake Conservation Center's activities are reported here.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide detailed information about the significant funds--not the County as a whole. Some funds are required to be established by state law and by bond covenants. However, the County Board establishes some funds to help it control and manage money for a particular purpose or to show that it is meeting legal responsibilities for using certain taxes, grants, and other money. The County's two kinds of funds, governmental and proprietary, use different accounting methods.

Governmental funds--Most of the County's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows in to and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using modified accrual accounting. This method measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the County's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps to determine whether there are more or fewer resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the County's programs. We describe the relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds in a reconciliation statement following each governmental fund financial statement.

Proprietary funds--When the County charges customers for the services it provides, whether to outside customers or to other units of the County, these services are generally reported in proprietary funds. Proprietary funds are reported in the same way that all activities are reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities. In fact, the County's enterprise fund (a component of proprietary funds) is the same as the business-type activities we report in the government-wide statements but provides more detail and additional information, such as cash flows.

Reporting the County's Fiduciary Responsibilities

The County is the trustee, or fiduciary, over certain assets. All of the County's fiduciary activities are reported in a separate Statement of Fiduciary Net Position. We exclude these activities from the County's other financial statements because the County cannot use these assets to finance its operations. The County is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes.

THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE

Our analysis focuses on the net position (Table 1) and changes in net position (Table 2) of the County's governmental and business-type activities for the year ended December 31, 2014, with comparative amounts for 2013. Unless otherwise indicated, all amounts are in thousands.

Table 1
Net Position
(in thousands)

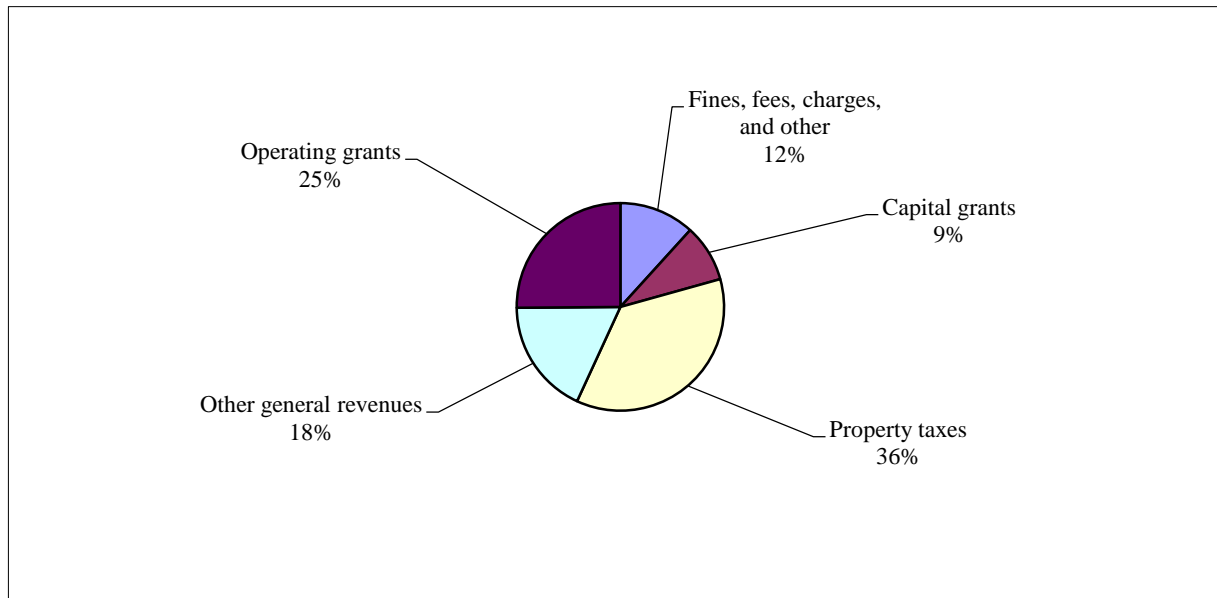
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Assets						
Current and other assets	\$ 33,056	\$ 31,673	\$ (504)	\$ (408)	\$ 32,552	\$ 31,265
Capital assets	88,419	87,049	3,628	3,778	92,047	90,827
Total Assets	\$ 121,475	\$ 118,722	\$ 3,124	\$ 3,370	\$ 124,599	\$ 122,092
Liabilities						
Long-term debt outstanding	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,511	\$ 16	\$ 21	\$ 1,259	\$ 1,532
Other liabilities	1,585	2,215	41	34	1,626	2,249
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,828	\$ 3,726	\$ 57	\$ 55	\$ 2,885	\$ 3,781
Net Position						
Investment in capital assets	\$ 88,419	\$ 86,693	\$ 3,628	\$ 3,778	\$ 92,047	\$ 90,471
Restricted	6,415	6,778	2	2	6,417	6,780
Unrestricted	23,813	21,525	(563)	(465)	23,250	21,060
Total Net Position	\$ 118,647	\$ 114,996	\$ 3,067	\$ 3,315	\$ 121,714	\$ 118,311

Table 2
Changes in Net Position
(in thousands)

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Revenues						
Program revenues						
Fines, fees, charges, and other	\$ 3,019	\$ 3,654	\$ 608	\$ 594	\$ 3,627	\$ 4,248
Operating grants	7,736	8,443	22	10	7,758	8,453
Capital grants	2,753	9,195	-	-	2,753	9,195
General revenues						
Property taxes	11,170	11,162	-	-	11,170	11,162
Other taxes	1,873	1,541	-	-	1,873	1,541
Grants and contributions	1,567	1,318	-	-	1,567	1,318
Other general revenues	2,111	698	-	-	2,111	698
Total Revenues	\$ 30,229	\$ 36,011	\$ 630	\$ 604	\$ 30,859	\$ 36,615
Expenses						
General government	\$ 5,238	\$ 5,530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,238	\$ 5,530
Public safety	5,752	5,311	-	-	5,752	5,311
Highways and streets	6,084	6,439	-	-	6,084	6,439
Sanitation	336	363	-	-	336	363
Human services	5,324	5,022	-	-	5,324	5,022
Health	772	702	-	-	772	702
Culture and recreation	780	739	-	-	780	739
Conservation of natural resources	2,186	2,068	878	843	3,064	2,911
Economic development	110	78	-	-	110	78
Interest	(4)	22	-	-	(4)	22
Total Expenses	\$ 26,578	\$ 26,274	\$ 878	\$ 843	\$ 27,456	\$ 27,117

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	\$ 3,651	\$ 9,737	\$ (248)	\$ (239)	\$ 3,403	\$ 9,498
Net Position, January 1	114,996	105,259	3,315	3,554	118,311	108,813
Net Position, December 31	\$ 118,647	\$ 114,996	\$ 3,067	\$ 3,315	\$ 121,714	\$ 118,311

Total County Revenues by Source



Governmental Activities

The cost of all activities this year was \$26,578. However, as shown in the Statement of Activities, the amount that taxpayers ultimately financed for these activities through County taxes was \$11,170 because some of the cost was paid by those who directly benefited from the programs (\$3,019) or by other governments and organizations that subsidized certain programs with grants and contributions (\$10,489).

Table 3 presents the cost of each of the County's five largest program functions, as well as each function's net cost (total cost, less revenues generated by the activities). The net cost shows the financial burden that was placed on the County's taxpayers by each of these functions.

**Table 3
Governmental Activities
(in thousands)**

Activity	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
General government	\$ 5,238	\$ 5,530	\$ 3,965	\$ 4,354
Public safety	5,752	5,311	4,664	4,244
Highways and streets	6,084	6,439	(580)	(8,752)
Human services	5,324	5,022	2,252	2,112
Conservation of natural resources	2,186	2,068	1,301	1,540
Totals	<u>\$ 24,584</u>	<u>\$ 24,370</u>	<u>\$ 11,602</u>	<u>\$ 3,498</u>

Business-Type Activities

The revenues of the County’s business-type activities increased by 4.3 percent, income from fees increased 2.4 percent, and expenses increased by 4.2 percent.

The County’s Funds

As the County completed the year, its governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of \$28,637, which is above last year’s total of \$26,334. The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund’s change in fund balance (an increase of \$1,347 for 2014) represented the largest increase in governmental fund balances. Most of the Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund’s increase is due to receiving state highway funds. The Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund balance decreased \$233. The General Fund saw an increase in fund balance of \$1,122.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The actual charges to appropriations (expenditures) were \$461 over the final budget amounts. Significant positive variances include the following: intergovernmental revenues and investment earnings were greater than budgeted.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At the end of 2014, the County had \$92,047 invested in a broad range of capital assets, including land, construction in progress, buildings, machinery, furniture, and equipment along with infrastructure (see Table 4). This amount represents a net increase of \$1,220, or 1.3 percent, over the last year.

Table 4
Capital Assets at Year-End
(Net of Depreciation)
(in thousands)

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Totals	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Land	\$ 3,287	\$ 3,287	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 3,302	\$ 3,302
Construction in progress	979	2,743	-	-	979	2,743
Buildings	7,706	8,047	3,583	3,744	11,289	11,791
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	4,927	2,801	30	19	4,957	2,820
Infrastructure	71,520	70,171	-	-	71,520	70,171
Totals	\$ 88,419	\$ 87,049	\$ 3,628	\$ 3,778	\$ 92,047	\$ 90,827

This year's major additions include:

CSAH 10	Grading, aggregate, bituminous overlay with shoulder widening	\$ 4,798
CR-multiple	Culvert replacement	828
CSAH 28	Culverts	276

The County's fiscal year 2015 capital budget calls for it to spend another \$10,092 for capital projects, principally for highway and street improvements. Additional information on capital assets is found in Note 3.A.3. to the financial statements.

Debt

At year-end, the County had \$244 in loans outstanding, versus \$578 of bonds and loans outstanding last year, a decrease of 57.8 percent, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5
Outstanding Debt at Year-End
(in thousands)

	Governmental Activities	
	2014	2013
General obligation bonds (backed by the County)	\$ -	\$ 335
AgBMP Septic Loans	244	243
Totals	\$ 244	\$ 578

The County's general obligation bond rating is "A1," a rating assigned by national rating agencies to the County's debt. The state limits the amount of net debt the County can issue to three percent of the market value of all taxable property in the County. The County's outstanding net debt is significantly below this \$82,606 state-imposed limit.

Other obligations include accrued vacation and sick leave payable. More detailed information about the County's long-term liabilities is presented in the notes to the financial statements.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

The County's elected and appointed officials considered many factors when setting the fiscal year 2016 budget, tax rates, and fees that will be charged for the business-type activities.

- Further increases in the unemployment rate in 2016 could impact the level of services requested by County residents.
- Aitkin County's demographic population has a high median age creating increased demands for services across several service areas. The County will be implementing its portion of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) programs.
- The general stabilization in real market values could result in a more moderate tax rate increase.
- The need to address future capital and infrastructure funding.

CONTACTING THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the County's finances and to show the County's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report, or need additional information, contact Kirk Peysar, Aitkin County Auditor, Aitkin County Courthouse, 209 Second Street N.W., Room 202, Aitkin, Minnesota 56431.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 1

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Assets			
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 28,570,054	\$ -	\$ 28,570,054
Petty cash and change funds	6,000	1,350	7,350
Departmental cash	11,660	-	11,660
Cash with fiscal agent	117,570	-	117,570
Taxes receivable			
Prior - net	628,639	-	628,639
Special assessments receivable			
Prior - net	12,438	-	12,438
Noncurrent - net	1,113	-	1,113
Accounts receivable - net	1,523,865	14,538	1,538,403
Accrued interest receivable	83,437	-	83,437
Loan receivable	126,143	-	126,143
Internal balances	528,805	(528,805)	-
Due from other governments	1,210,072	-	1,210,072
Inventories	235,535	6,570	242,105
Prepaid items	818	-	818
Restricted assets			
Cash and pooled investments	-	2,036	2,036
Capital assets			
Non-depreciable	4,266,249	15,400	4,281,649
Depreciable - net of accumulated depreciation	84,153,092	3,612,585	87,765,677
Total Assets	\$ 121,475,490	\$ 3,123,674	\$ 124,599,164
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$ 392,349	\$ 19,107	\$ 411,456
Salaries payable	653,161	20,875	674,036
Contracts payable	111,007	-	111,007
Due to other governments	344,294	653	344,947
Timber permit bonds	84,322	-	84,322
Unearned revenue	719	-	719
Long-term liabilities			
Due within one year	1,031,105	15,761	1,046,866
Due in more than one year	211,669	-	211,669
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,828,626	\$ 56,396	\$ 2,885,022

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT 1
(Continued)**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<u>Net Position</u>			
Investment in capital assets	\$ 88,419,341	\$ 3,627,985	\$ 92,047,326
Restricted for			
General government	1,587,897	-	1,587,897
Public safety	624,249	-	624,249
Sanitation	650,959	-	650,959
Culture and recreation	175,869	-	175,869
Conservation of natural resources	2,260,009	-	2,260,009
Economic development	598,882	-	598,882
Unorganized road, bridge, and fire	516,477	-	516,477
Other purposes	-	2,036	2,036
Unrestricted	23,813,181	(562,743)	23,250,438
Total Net Position	\$ 118,646,864	\$ 3,067,278	\$ 121,714,142

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Expenses	Fees, Charges, Fines, and Other
<u>Functions/Programs</u>		
Primary government		
Governmental activities		
General government	\$ 5,237,866	\$ 1,101,742
Public safety	5,752,197	706,559
Highways and streets	6,083,998	565,739
Sanitation	336,404	17,505
Human services	5,324,175	492,077
Health	771,728	111,935
Culture and recreation	779,576	15,011
Conservation of natural resources	2,185,904	-
Economic development	109,779	8,367
Interest	(4,107)	-
	\$ 26,577,520	\$ 3,018,935
Total governmental activities		
Business-type activities		
Long Lake Conservation Center	877,603	607,738
	\$ 27,455,123	\$ 3,626,673
	\$ 27,455,123	\$ 3,626,673

General Revenues

Property taxes
Gravel tax
Mortgage registry and deed tax
Other taxes
Payments in lieu of tax
Grants and contributions not restricted to
specific programs
Unrestricted investment earnings
Miscellaneous

Total general revenues

Change in net position

Net Position - Beginning

Net Position - Ending

EXHIBIT 2

Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position		
Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Primary Government		
		Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
\$ 171,037	\$ -	\$ (3,965,087)	\$ -	\$ (3,965,087)
381,237	-	(4,664,401)	-	(4,664,401)
3,345,325	2,752,671	579,737	-	579,737
37,900	-	(280,999)	-	(280,999)
2,580,302	-	(2,251,796)	-	(2,251,796)
336,175	-	(323,618)	-	(323,618)
-	-	(764,565)	-	(764,565)
884,454	-	(1,301,450)	-	(1,301,450)
-	-	(101,412)	-	(101,412)
-	-	4,107	-	4,107
\$ 7,736,430	\$ 2,752,671	\$ (13,069,484)	\$ -	\$ (13,069,484)
22,083	-	-	(247,782)	(247,782)
\$ 7,758,513	\$ 2,752,671	\$ (13,069,484)	\$ (247,782)	\$ (13,317,266)
		\$ 11,169,849	\$ -	\$ 11,169,849
		166	-	166
		15,107	-	15,107
		15,141	-	15,141
		1,842,586	-	1,842,586
		1,566,831	-	1,566,831
		808,767	36	808,803
		1,301,952	-	1,301,952
		\$ 16,720,399	\$ 36	\$ 16,720,435
		\$ 3,650,915	\$ (247,746)	\$ 3,403,169
		114,995,949	3,315,024	118,310,973
		\$ 118,646,864	\$ 3,067,278	\$ 121,714,142

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FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 3

**BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Road and Bridge</u>	<u>Health and Human Services</u>	<u>Forfeited Tax Sale</u>	<u>Nonmajor Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Assets</u>						
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 9,197,034	\$ 9,798,415	\$ 4,959,306	\$ 2,738,387	\$ 1,876,912	\$ 28,570,054
Petty cash and change funds	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	6,000
Departmental cash	11,660	-	-	-	-	11,660
Cash with fiscal agent	117,570	-	-	-	-	117,570
Taxes receivable						
Prior	375,948	124,573	125,346	-	2,772	628,639
Special assessments						
Prior	-	-	-	-	12,438	12,438
Noncurrent	-	-	-	-	1,113	1,113
Accounts receivable	1,092	280	7,796	1,514,402	295	1,523,865
Accrued interest receivable	83,437	-	-	-	-	83,437
Loans receivable	126,143	-	-	-	-	126,143
Due from other funds	893,010	29,788	-	-	440,522	1,363,320
Due from other governments	259,041	639,212	289,923	1,952	19,944	1,210,072
Prepaid items	-	-	818	-	-	818
Inventories	-	235,535	-	-	-	235,535
Total Assets	\$ 11,067,935	\$ 10,827,803	\$ 5,386,189	\$ 4,254,741	\$ 2,353,996	\$ 33,890,664
<u>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</u>						
Liabilities						
Accounts payable	\$ 233,032	\$ 82,394	\$ 53,238	\$ 10,765	\$ 12,920	\$ 392,349
Salaries payable	355,335	90,866	167,726	26,018	13,216	653,161
Contracts payable	-	111,007	-	-	-	111,007
Due to other funds	-	-	6,795	797,163	30,557	834,515
Due to other governments	58,416	6,726	27,386	251,760	6	344,294
Unearned revenue	719	-	-	-	-	719
Timber permit bonds	-	-	-	84,322	-	84,322
Total Liabilities	\$ 647,502	\$ 290,993	\$ 255,145	\$ 1,170,028	\$ 56,699	\$ 2,420,367
Deferred Inflows of Resources						
Unavailable revenue	\$ 406,215	\$ 730,761	\$ 145,839	\$ 1,514,402	\$ 35,840	\$ 2,833,057

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT 3
(Continued)**

**BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Road and Bridge</u>	<u>Health and Human Services</u>	<u>Forfeited Tax Sale</u>	<u>Nonmajor Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</u>						
(Continued)						
Fund Balances						
Nonspendable						
Inventories	\$ -	\$ 235,535	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 235,535
Prepaid items	-	-	818	-	-	818
Restricted for						
Recorder's technology	302,570	-	-	-	-	302,570
Prosecutorial purposes	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Enhanced 911	497,530	-	-	-	-	497,530
Law enforcement	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Administering the carrying of weapons	112,408	-	-	-	-	112,408
Conservation of natural resources	24,697	-	-	-	-	24,697
Loans receivable	126,143	-	-	-	-	126,143
Solid waste	650,959	-	-	-	-	650,959
Recorder's equipment purchases	339,599	-	-	-	-	339,599
Parks	175,869	-	-	-	-	175,869
Substance abuse monitoring	9,311	-	-	-	-	9,311
Missing heirs	-	-	-	21,519	-	21,519
County development	-	-	-	598,882	-	598,882
Law library	-	-	-	58,547	-	58,547
Unclaimed property	-	-	-	1,815	-	1,815
Administering forfeited tax sales	-	-	-	30,701	-	30,701
Building maintenance and repair	-	-	-	858,847	-	858,847
Unorganized road, bridge, and fire	-	-	-	-	514,132	514,132
Ditch maintenance and repairs	-	-	-	-	56,853	56,853
Environmental uses	-	-	-	-	487,269	487,269
Assigned for						
Highways and streets	2,543,081	9,570,514	-	-	-	12,113,595
Public safety	1,652,721	-	-	-	-	1,652,721
Health and human services	-	-	4,984,387	-	-	4,984,387
Forest development	-	-	-	-	1,215,155	1,215,155
Unassigned	3,569,330	-	-	-	(11,952)	3,557,378
Total Fund Balances	\$ 10,014,218	\$ 9,806,049	\$ 4,985,205	\$ 1,570,311	\$ 2,261,457	\$ 28,637,240
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ 11,067,935	\$ 10,827,803	\$ 5,386,189	\$ 4,254,741	\$ 2,353,996	\$ 33,890,664

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 4

**RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET TO
THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION--GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit 3)		\$ 28,637,240
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:		
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		88,419,341
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the governmental funds.		
Deferred inflows of resources - unavailable revenue		2,833,057
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.		
Loans payable	\$ (243,713)	
Compensated absences	(999,061)	(1,242,774)
Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 1)		<u><u>\$ 118,646,864</u></u>

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 5

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Road and Bridge</u>	<u>Health and Human Services</u>	<u>Forfeited Tax Sale</u>	<u>Nonmajor Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues						
Taxes	\$ 6,956,412	\$ 2,240,296	\$ 1,881,031	\$ -	\$ 70,779	\$ 11,148,518
Special assessments	-	-	-	-	1,510	1,510
Licenses and permits	384,776	-	-	-	524	385,300
Intergovernmental	3,608,474	6,151,327	3,378,036	406,929	296,255	13,841,021
Charges for services	1,198,615	269,814	212,636	25,709	-	1,706,774
Gifts and contributions	3,352	-	-	-	-	3,352
Investment earnings	744,325	-	-	-	14,651	758,976
Miscellaneous	355,303	295,905	315,315	1,701,815	5,794	2,674,132
Total Revenues	\$ 13,251,257	\$ 8,957,342	\$ 5,787,018	\$ 2,134,453	\$ 389,513	\$ 30,519,583
Expenditures						
Current						
General government	\$ 5,219,709	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,954	\$ 2,761	\$ 5,242,424
Public safety	5,572,494	-	-	-	26,819	5,599,313
Highways and streets	-	7,093,082	-	-	48,781	7,141,863
Sanitation	327,716	-	-	-	-	327,716
Human services	-	-	5,263,803	-	-	5,263,803
Health	3,319	-	755,951	-	-	759,270
Culture and recreation	776,461	-	-	-	-	776,461
Conservation of natural resources	329,693	-	-	1,123,940	673,771	2,127,404
Economic development	109,762	-	-	-	-	109,762
Intergovernmental						
Highways and streets	-	340,031	-	-	-	340,031
Debt service						
Principal	20,816	-	-	-	335,000	355,816
Interest	-	-	-	-	16,750	16,750
Total Expenditures	\$ 12,359,970	\$ 7,433,113	\$ 6,019,754	\$ 1,143,894	\$ 1,103,882	\$ 28,060,613
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 891,287	\$ 1,524,229	\$ (232,736)	\$ 990,559	\$ (714,369)	\$ 2,458,970
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Loans issued	\$ 21,777	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,777
Transfers in	371,274	-	-	-	604,356	975,630
Transfers out	(162,497)	-	-	(798,500)	(14,633)	(975,630)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ 230,554	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (798,500)	\$ 589,723	\$ 21,777
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 1,121,841	\$ 1,524,229	\$ (232,736)	\$ 192,059	\$ (124,646)	\$ 2,480,747
Fund Balance - January 1	8,892,377	8,459,193	5,217,941	1,378,252	2,386,103	26,333,866
Increase (decrease) in inventories	-	(177,373)	-	-	-	(177,373)
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 10,014,218	\$ 9,806,049	\$ 4,985,205	\$ 1,570,311	\$ 2,261,457	\$ 28,637,240

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 6

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE
GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES--GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (Exhibit 5) \$ 2,480,747

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

In the funds, under the modified accrual basis, receivables not available for expenditure are deferred. In the statement of activities, those revenues are recognized when earned. The adjustment to revenue between the fund statements and the statement of activities is the increase or decrease in unavailable revenue.

Unavailable revenue - December 31	\$ 2,833,057	
Unavailable revenue - January 1	<u>(3,124,206)</u>	(291,149)

Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. Also, in the statement of activities, only the gain or loss on the disposal of assets is reported; whereas, in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale increase financial resources. Therefore, the change in net position differs from the change in fund balance by the net book value of the assets sold.

Expenditures for general capital assets and infrastructure	\$ 4,232,153	
Current year depreciation	<u>(2,861,761)</u>	1,370,392

Issuing long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of debt consumes current financial resources. Neither transaction has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the net effect of premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued; whereas, those amounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the debt in the statement of net position.

Debt issued		
AgBMP Septic Loans	\$ (21,777)	
Principal repayments		
General obligation bonds	335,000	
Loans	20,816	
Current year amortization of bond premiums	<u>20,857</u>	354,896

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

Change in compensated absences	\$ (86,598)	
Change in inventories	<u>(177,373)</u>	<u>(263,971)</u>

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities (Exhibit 2) \$ 3,650,915

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PROPRIETARY FUND

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**LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER
ENTERPRISE FUND**

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 7

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER ENTERPRISE FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Assets

Current assets

Petty cash and change funds	\$	1,350
Accounts receivable - net		14,538
Inventories		6,570
		6,570

Total current assets	\$	22,458
		22,458

Restricted assets

Cash and pooled investments	\$	2,036
		2,036

Noncurrent assets

Capital assets		
Nondepreciable	\$	15,400
Depreciable - net		3,612,585
		3,612,585

Total noncurrent assets	\$	3,627,985
		3,627,985

Total Assets	\$	3,652,479
		3,652,479

Liabilities

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$	19,107
Salaries payable		20,875
Compensated absences payable - current		15,761
Due to other funds		528,805
Due to other governments		653
		653

Total Liabilities	\$	585,201
		585,201

Net Position

Investment in capital assets	\$	3,627,985
Restricted for		
Publications		2,036
Unrestricted		(562,743)
		(562,743)

Total Net Position	\$	3,067,278
		3,067,278

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 8

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Operating Revenues	
Program packages	\$ 557,470
Resale	37,554
Miscellaneous	12,714
	<hr/>
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 607,738
Operating Expenses	
Personal services	\$ 360,961
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	102,948
Other services and charges	49,940
Supplies	97,421
Utilities	52,255
Advertising	6,066
Insurance	17,598
Staff training	106
Postage	1,029
Depreciation	166,659
Resale	22,620
	<hr/>
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 877,603
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (269,865)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	
Intergovernmental	\$ 4,387
Investment earnings	36
Gifts and contributions	13,840
Insurance proceeds	3,856
	<hr/>
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	\$ 22,119
Change in Net Position	\$ (247,746)
Net Position - January 1	3,315,024
	<hr/>
Net Position - December 31	\$ 3,067,278
	<hr/> <hr/>

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 9

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER ENTERPRISE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 610,799
Payments to suppliers	(256,404)
Payments to employees	(361,851)
Payments for fringe benefits and payroll taxes	<u>(102,948)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ (110,404)</u>
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities	
Intergovernmental	\$ 4,387
Contributions	7,140
Insurance proceeds	3,856
Repayment of interfund payable	<u>95,021</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) noncapital financing activities	<u>\$ 110,404</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Interest	<u>\$ 36</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 36
Cash and Cash Equivalents at January 1	<u>3,350</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at December 31	<u><u>\$ 3,386</u></u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	
Operating income (loss)	<u>\$ (269,865)</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	
Depreciation expense	\$ 166,659
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	3,061
(Increase) decrease in inventories	(2,126)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(5,852)
Increase (decrease) in salaries payable	4,097
Increase (decrease) in due to other governments	(1,391)
Increase (decrease) in compensated absences payable	<u>(4,987)</u>
Total adjustments	<u>\$ 159,461</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ (110,404)</u></u>
Noncash Investing, Capital and Financing Activities	
Capital asset purchased on account	
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	\$ 10,000
Contribution of capital assets	6,700

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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FIDUCIARY FUNDS

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 10

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
AGENCY FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Assets

Cash and pooled investments	\$ 769,927
Due from other governments	<u>3,275</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 773,202</u></u>

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 51,929
Due to other governments	<u>721,273</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$ 773,202</u></u>

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AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The County's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the County are discussed below.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

Aitkin County was established May 23, 1857, and is an organized county having the powers, duties, and privileges granted counties by Minn. Stat. ch. 373. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, these financial statements present Aitkin County. Aitkin County has no component units. The County is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners elected from districts within the County. The Board is organized with a chair and vice chair elected at the annual meeting in January of each year.

Joint Ventures, Jointly-Governed Organizations, and Related Organization

The County participates in several joint ventures described in Note 6.B. The County also participates in jointly-governed organizations described in Note 6.C. and a related organization described in Note 6.D.

B. Basic Financial Statements

1. Government-Wide Statements

The government-wide financial statements (the statement of net position and the statement of activities) display information about the primary government. These statements include the financial activities of the overall County government, except for fiduciary activities. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges to external parties for support.

AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

B. Basic Financial Statements

1. Government-Wide Statements (Continued)

In the government-wide statement of net position, both the governmental and business-type activities columns: (a) are presented on a consolidated basis by column; and (b) are reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The County's net position is reported in three parts: (1) investment in capital assets, (2) restricted net position, and (3) unrestricted net position. The County first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of each function of the County's governmental activities and its business-type activities are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those clearly identifiable with a specific function or activity. Program revenues include: (1) fees, fines, and charges paid by the recipients of goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or activity; and (2) grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or activity. Revenues not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

2. Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category--governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary--are presented. The emphasis of governmental and proprietary fund financial statements is on major individual governmental and enterprise funds, with each displayed in a separate column in the fund financial statements. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Fund is the County's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those accounted for in another fund.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

B. Basic Financial Statements

2. Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund is used to account for revenues and expenditures of the County Highway Department, which is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and other projects affecting County roadways.

The Health and Human Services Special Revenue Fund is used to account for economic assistance, community social services, and public health programs.

The Forfeited Tax Sale Special Revenue Fund is used to account for proceeds from the sale or rental of lands forfeited to the State of Minnesota, pursuant to Minn. Stat. ch. 282. The distribution of the net proceeds, after deducting the expenses of the County for managing the tax-forfeited lands, is governed by Minn. Stat. § 282.08. Title to the tax-forfeited lands remains with the state until sold by the County.

The County reports the following major enterprise fund:

The Long Lake Conservation Center Enterprise Fund is used to account for the operation of a conservation school primarily for young adults.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

The Jail Bond Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of principal, interest, and related costs for the 2005 General Obligation Jail Refunding Bonds.

The Environmental Permanent Fund is used to account for funds collected from the sale of County-owned lakeshore leased lots. In accordance with 1998 Minn. Laws ch. 389, art. 16, § 31, the principal on these sales must remain in an environmental trust, and the interest may be spent only on improvements of natural resources.

Agency funds are custodial in nature and do not present results of operations or have a measurement focus. These funds account for assets that the County holds for others in an agent capacity.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The government-wide, proprietary, and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Shared revenues are generally recognized in the period the appropriation goes into effect. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Aitkin County considers all revenues as available if collected within 60 days after the end of the current period. Property and other taxes, shared revenues, licenses, and interest are all considered susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, compensated absences, and claims and judgments, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent that they have matured. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from nonexchange transactions or incidental activities.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the County's policy to use restricted resources first and then unrestricted resources as needed.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are identified only for the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows reporting by the proprietary fund. The County has defined cash and cash equivalents to include cash on hand, petty cash, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Additionally, each fund's equity in the County's investment pool is treated as a cash equivalent because the funds can be deposited or effectively withdrawn from cash at any time without prior notice or penalty.

2. Deposits and Investments

The cash balances of substantially all funds are pooled and invested by the County Treasurer for the purpose of increasing earnings through investment activities. Pooled and fund investments are reported at their fair value at December 31, 2014, based on market prices. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 385.07, investment earnings on cash and pooled investments are credited to the General Fund. Other funds receive investment earnings based on other state statutes, grant agreements, contracts, and bond covenants. Pooled investment earnings for 2014 were \$744,325.

Aitkin County invests in an external investment pool, the Minnesota Association of Governments Investing for Counties (MAGIC) Fund, which is created under a joint powers agreement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The MAGIC Fund is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The investment in the pool is measured at the amortized cost per share provided by the pool, which would closely approximate fair value.

3. Receivables and Payables

Activities between funds representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" (the current portion of interfund loans) or "advances to/from other funds" (the noncurrent portion of interfund loans).

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

3. Receivables and Payables (Continued)

All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as “due to/from other funds.” Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as “internal balances.”

All receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles.

Property taxes are levied as of January 1 on property values assessed as of the same date. The tax levy notice is mailed in March with the first half payment due May 15 and the second half payment due October 15. Unpaid taxes at December 31 become liens on the respective property and are classified in the financial statements as taxes receivable - prior.

Special assessments receivable consists of prior special assessments payable in the years 2008 through 2014 and noncurrent special assessments payable in 2015 and after. Unpaid special assessments at December 31 are classified in the financial statements as special assessments - prior.

4. Inventories and Prepaid Items

All inventories are valued at cost. The Road and Bridge Special Revenue Fund uses an average cost method to value inventory, and the Long Lake Conservation Center Enterprise Fund uses the first in/first out method. Inventories in governmental funds are reported as expenditures when purchased rather than when consumed. Inventories in proprietary funds and at the government-wide level are reported as expenses when consumed.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are reported as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity
(Continued)

5. Restricted Assets

Certain funds of the County are classified as restricted assets on the statement of net position because the restriction is either imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or imposed externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Therefore, their use is limited by applicable laws and regulations.

6. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include land, buildings, machinery, furniture, equipment, and infrastructure (such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, construction in progress, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$3,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed. During the current period, the County had no capitalized interest.

Property, plant, and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	25 - 75
Public domain infrastructure	15 - 75
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	3 - 15

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity
(Continued)

7. Unearned Revenue

Governmental funds and government-wide financial statements report unearned revenue in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

8. Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences reported in the financial statements consists of unpaid, accumulated vacation and sick leave balances. The liability has been calculated using the vesting method, in which leave amounts for both employees who currently are eligible to receive termination payments and other employees who are expected to become eligible in the future to receive such payments upon termination are included. Compensated absences are accrued when incurred in the government-wide, proprietary, and fiduciary fund financial statements. Based on a trend analysis of current usage, the County estimates the entire compensated absences balance will be used in the subsequent year. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

9. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. Currently, the County has no items that qualify for reporting in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The County has only one type of item which arises only under the modified accrual basis of accounting that qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

9. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources (Continued)

revenue, is reports only in the governmental funds balance sheet. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available.

Governmental funds report unavailable revenue in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.

10. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of the debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources, while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

11. Classification of Net Position

Net position in government-wide statements is classified in the following categories:

Investment in capital assets - the amount of net position representing capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

11. Classification of Net Position (Continued)

Restricted net position - the amount of net position for which external restrictions have been imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position - the amount of net position that does not meet the definition of restricted or investment in capital assets.

12. Classification of Fund Balances

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the County is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, such as fund balance associated with inventories, prepaids, or permanent funds.

Restricted - amounts that are restricted by external parties such as creditors or imposed by grants, law, or legislation.

Committed - amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of Aitkin County's highest level of decision-making authority, which is the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners. Fund balance commitments are established, modified, or rescinded by County Board action through a Board resolution.

Assigned - amounts intended to be used by the government for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount of fund balance that is not restricted or committed. When it is appropriate for fund balance to be assigned, the Board delegates this authority to the County Auditor.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position or Equity

12. Classification of Fund Balances (Continued)

Unassigned - the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other fund balance classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted or committed.

In circumstances where an expenditure is to be made for a purpose for which amounts are available in multiple fund balance classifications, the order in which resources will be expended is as follows: restricted, committed, and then assigned; unless the specific items have been identified in another classification.

The County has adopted a minimum fund balance policy for the General Fund. The County Board has determined it needs to maintain a minimum level of unassigned fund balance in the General Fund of 35 to 50 percent of the prior year's General Fund total operating expenditures. At December 31, 2014, the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was below the minimum fund balance level.

13. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

E. Future Change in Accounting Standards

GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, as amended by GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date*, replaces Statement No. 27, *Accounting for Pensions by State and Local Governmental Employers*, and Statement No. 50, *Pension Disclosures*, as they relate to employer governments that provide pensions through pension plans administered as trusts or similar arrangement that meet certain criteria.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

E. Future Change in Accounting Standards (Continued)

GASB Statement 68 requires governments providing defined benefit pension plans to recognize their long-term obligation for pension benefits as a liability for the first time, and to more comprehensively and comparably measure the annual costs of pension benefits. This statement will be effective for the County's calendar year 2015. The County has not yet determined the financial statement impact of adopting the new standard.

2. Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability

A. Deficit Fund Equity

Ditch Special Revenue Fund

Six of 13 drainage systems of the Ditch Special Revenue Fund have incurred expenditures in excess of revenues and available resources. These deficits will be eliminated with future special assessment levies against benefited properties. The following summary shows the fund balance as of December 31, 2014:

Account balances	\$	56,853
Account deficits		(11,952)
Fund Balance	\$	44,901

B. Expenditures in Excess of Budget

The following nonmajor governmental funds had expenditures in excess of budget for the year ended December 31, 2014:

	Expenditures	Final Budget	Excess
Special Revenue Funds			
Forest Development	\$ 672,386	\$ 612,160	\$ 60,226
Unorganized Road, Bridge, and Fire	78,361	68,800	9,561

AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

Reconciliation of the County's total cash and investments to the basic financial statements follows:

Government-wide statement of net position	
Governmental activities	
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 28,570,054
Petty cash and change funds	6,000
Departmental cash	11,660
Cash with fiscal agent	117,570
Business-type activities	
Petty cash and change funds	1,350
Cash and pooled investments - restricted assets	2,036
Statement of fiduciary net position	
Cash and pooled investments	<u>769,927</u>
 Total Cash and Investments	 <u>\$ 29,478,597</u>

a. Deposits

The County is authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.02 and 118A.04 to designate a depository for public funds and to invest in certificates of deposit. The County is required by Minn. Stat. § 118A.03 to protect deposits with insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged shall be at least ten percent more than the amount on deposit at the close of the financial institution's banking day, not covered by insurance or bonds.

Authorized collateral includes treasury bills, notes and bonds; issues of U.S. government agencies; general obligations rated "A" or better and revenue obligations rated "AA" or better; irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by the Federal Home Loan Bank; and certificates of deposit. Minnesota statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping in a restricted account at the Federal Reserve Bank or in an account at a trust department of a commercial bank or other financial institution not owned or controlled by the financial institution furnishing the collateral.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

a. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the County's deposits may not be returned to it. It is the County's policy that collateral or bonds will be required for all uninsured amounts on deposit, and the additional insurance will be documented to show compliance with state law and a perfected security interest under federal law. As of December 31, 2014, the County's deposits were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

b. Investments

The County may invest in the following types of investments as authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.04 and 118A.05:

- (1) securities which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress, except mortgage-backed securities defined as "high risk" by Minn. Stat. § 118A.04, subd. 6;
- (2) mutual funds through shares of registered investment companies provided the mutual fund receives certain ratings depending on its investments;
- (3) general obligations of the State of Minnesota and its municipalities, and in certain state agency and local obligations of Minnesota and other states provided such obligations have certain specified bond ratings by a national bond rating service;
- (4) bankers' acceptances of United States banks;

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

b. Investments (Continued)

- (5) commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is rated in the highest quality category by two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less; and
- (6) with certain restrictions, in repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, joint powers investment trusts, and guaranteed investment contracts.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in the market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The County minimizes its exposure to interest rate risk by investing in both short-term and long-term investments and by timing cash flows from maturities so that a portion of the portfolio is maturing or coming close to maturity evenly over time as necessary to provide the cash flow and liquidity needed for operations.

Credit Risk

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. It is the County's policy to invest only in securities that meet the ratings requirements set by state statute.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments

b. Investments (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities in the possession of an outside party. The County's policy is that brokers may hold County investments only to the extent there is Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) coverage and excess SIPC coverage available, with the exception of investments held within the MAGIC Fund. As of December 31, 2014, none of the County's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss that may be caused by the County's investment in a single issuer. It is the County's policy that U.S. Treasury securities, U.S. agency securities, and obligations backed by U.S. Treasury and/or U.S. agency securities may be held without limit, and corporate securities may be held up to \$2,000,000 per issuer.

The following table presents the County's deposit and investment balances at December 31, 2014, and information relating to potential investment risks:

Investment Type	Credit Risk		Concentration Risk Over 5 Percent of Portfolio	Interest Rate Risk Maturity Date	Carrying (Fair) Value
	Credit Rating	Rating Agency			
U.S. government agency securities					
Federal Farm Credit Bank Bonds	AA+	S&P		02/13/2020	\$ 985,510
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Pool	N/R	N/A		04/01/2017	\$ 48
Federal Home Loan Bank Bonds	AA+	S&P		09/27/2019	\$ 488,584
Federal Home Loan Bank Bonds	AA+	S&P		10/03/2019	1,975,480
Federal Home Loan Bank Bonds	AA+	S&P		10/11/2019	1,290,926
Federal Home Loan Bank Bonds	AA+	S&P		10/15/2019	246,595
Federal Home Loan Bank Bonds	AA+	S&P		01/30/2020	983,620
Total Federal Home Loan Bank Bonds			19.18%		\$ 4,985,205

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Deposits and Investments (Continued)

Investment Type	Credit Risk		Concentration Risk Over 5 Percent of Portfolio	Interest Rate Risk Maturity Date	Carrying (Fair) Value
	Credit Rating	Rating Agency			
U.S. government agency securities (Continued)					
Federal Home Loan Bank Note	AA+	S&P	10.17%	03/09/2018	\$ 2,641,995
Federal National Mortgage Association	AA+	S&P		08/28/2019	\$ 2,224,913
Federal National Mortgage Association	AA+	S&P		10/04/2019	991,320
Federal National Mortgage Association	AA+	S&P		02/12/2020	982,400
Federal National Mortgage Association	AA+	S&P		04/17/2020	985,920
Federal National Mortgage Association	AA+	S&P		06/26/2020	495,565
Total Federal National Mortgage Association			21.86%		\$ 5,680,118
Total U.S. government agency securities					\$ 14,292,876
Investment pools/mutual funds					
Wells Fargo - Advantage Prime Fund	AA+	S&P	N/A	N/A	\$ 24,819
MAGIC Fund	N/R	N/A	N/A	N/A	11,667,728
Total investment pools/mutual funds					\$ 11,692,547
Total investments					\$ 25,985,423
Deposits					3,356,594
Petty cash and change funds					7,350
Departmental cash					11,660
Cash with fiscal agent					117,570
Total Cash and Investments					\$ 29,478,597

N/A - Not Applicable
N/R - Not Rated
S&P - Standard and Poor's

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets (Continued)

2. Receivables

Receivables, net of uncollectible amounts, as of December 31, 2014, for the County's governmental activities are as follows:

	Total Receivables	Amounts Not Scheduled for Collection During the Subsequent Year
Governmental Activities		
Taxes	\$ 628,639	\$ -
Special assessments	13,551	1,113
Accounts	1,523,865	-
Accrued interest	83,437	-
Loans	126,143	115,554
Due from other governments	1,210,072	-
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 3,585,707	\$ 116,667

An allowance for uncollectible receivables related to timber sales is included in the above figures. The allowance at December 31, 2014, is \$147,440.

Loans Receivable

The County has entered into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and a local lending institution to jointly administer a loan program to individuals to implement projects that prevent or mitigate nonpoint source water pollution. The County is responsible for collecting any delinquent loans transferred back to the County.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets (Continued)

3. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2014, was as follows:

Governmental Activities

	Beginning Balance	Increase	Decrease	Ending Balance
Capital assets not depreciated				
Land	\$ 3,287,146	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,287,146
Construction in progress	2,743,423	520,190	2,284,510	979,103
Total capital assets not depreciated	\$ 6,030,569	\$ 520,190	\$ 2,284,510	\$ 4,266,249
Capital assets depreciated				
Buildings	\$ 15,127,502	\$ 30,710	\$ -	\$ 15,158,212
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	10,149,652	2,773,639	123,293	12,799,998
Infrastructure	91,734,163	3,192,124	-	94,926,287
Total capital assets depreciated	\$ 117,011,317	\$ 5,996,473	\$ 123,293	\$ 122,884,497
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Buildings	\$ 7,080,988	\$ 370,591	\$ -	\$ 7,451,579
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	7,348,937	647,716	123,293	7,873,360
Infrastructure	21,563,012	1,843,454	-	23,406,466
Total accumulated depreciation	\$ 35,992,937	\$ 2,861,761	\$ 123,293	\$ 38,731,405
Total capital assets depreciated, net	\$ 81,018,380	\$ 3,134,712	\$ -	\$ 84,153,092
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	\$ 87,048,949	\$ 3,654,902	\$ 2,284,510	\$ 88,419,341

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets (Continued)

3. Capital Assets (Continued)

Business-Type Activities

	Beginning Balance	Increase	Decrease	Ending Balance
Capital assets not depreciated				
Land	\$ 15,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,400
Capital assets depreciated				
Buildings	\$ 6,200,231	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,200,231
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	150,732	16,700	3,165	164,267
Total capital assets depreciated	\$ 6,350,963	\$ 16,700	\$ 3,165	\$ 6,364,498
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Buildings	\$ 2,456,706	\$ 160,708	\$ -	\$ 2,617,414
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	131,713	5,951	3,165	134,499
Total accumulated depreciation	\$ 2,588,419	\$ 166,659	\$ 3,165	\$ 2,751,913
Total capital assets depreciated, net	\$ 3,762,544	\$ (149,959)	\$ -	\$ 3,612,585
Business-Type Activities				
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 3,777,944	\$ (149,959)	\$ -	\$ 3,627,985

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental Activities	
General government	\$ 341,449
Public safety	222,576
Highways and streets, including depreciation of infrastructure assets	2,189,800
Sanitation	8,167
Human services	37,319
Culture and recreation	2,124
Conservation of natural resources	60,326
Total Depreciation Expense - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 2,861,761</u>
Business-Type Activities	
Long Lake Conservation Center	<u>\$ 166,659</u>

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds (Continued)

B. Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers

The composition of interfund balances as of December 31, 2014, is as follows:

1. Due To/From Other Funds

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
General Fund	Health and Human Services	\$ 6,795	Services provided
	Forfeited Tax Sale	356,641	Forfeited tax sale apportionment
	Long Lake Conservation Center	528,805	Fund deficit cash balance
	Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>769</u>	To close debt service fund
Total due to General Fund		\$ 893,010	
Road and Bridge Fund	Nonmajor governmental funds	29,788	Services provided
Nonmajor governmental funds	Forfeited Tax Sale	<u>440,522</u>	Forfeited tax sale apportionment
Total Due To/From Other Funds		<u>\$ 1,363,320</u>	

2. Interfund Transfers

Interfund transfers for the year ended December 31, 2014, consisted of the following:

Transfers to General Fund from			
Forfeited Tax Sale Fund	\$ 356,641		Forfeited tax sale apportionment
Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>14,633</u>		Reimbursement for expenditures
Total transferred to General Fund	<u>\$ 371,274</u>		
Transfer to nonmajor governmental funds from			
Forfeited Tax Sale Fund	\$ 441,859		Forfeited tax sale apportionment to pay for ditch fund maintenance
General Fund	<u>162,497</u>		To pay final debt payment
Total transferred to nonmajor governmental funds	<u>\$ 604,356</u>		
Total Interfund Transfers	<u>\$ 975,630</u>		

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds (Continued)

C. Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources

1. Long-Term Debt

Governmental Activities

Type of Indebtedness	Final Maturity	Installment Amounts	Interest Rate (%)	Original Issue Amount	Outstanding Balance December 31, 2014
AgBMP septic loans	2025	\$326 - \$16,918	0.00	\$ 317,007	\$ 243,713

2. Debt Service Requirements

Debt service requirements at December 31, 2014, were as follows:

Governmental Activities

Year Ending December 31	AgBMP Septic Loans	
	Principal	Interest
2015	\$ 32,044	\$ -
2016	31,868	-
2017	31,147	-
2018	31,398	-
2019	31,660	-
2020 - 2024	85,270	-
2025	326	-
Totals	\$ 243,713	\$ -

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources (Continued)

3. Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2014, was as follows:

Governmental Activities

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds and notes payable					
Bonds	\$ 335,000	\$ -	\$ 335,000	\$ -	\$ -
Bond premium	20,857	-	20,857	-	-
Total bonds and notes payable	\$ 355,857	\$ -	\$ 355,857	\$ -	\$ -
AgBMP septic loans	242,752	21,777	20,816	243,713	32,044
Compensated absences	912,463	1,175,465	1,088,867	999,061	999,061
Governmental Activities Long-Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,511,072</u>	<u>\$ 1,197,242</u>	<u>\$ 1,465,540</u>	<u>\$ 1,242,774</u>	<u>\$ 1,031,105</u>

Business-Type Activities

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Compensated absences	\$ 20,748	\$ 34,588	\$ 39,575	\$ 15,761	\$ 15,761

4. Construction Commitments

The County has active construction projects as of December 31, 2014. The remaining commitment for highway projects is state-funded and, therefore, not obligations of the County at December 31, 2014.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

3. Detailed Notes on All Funds

C. Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources (Continued)

5. Unearned Revenues/Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred inflows of resources consist of taxes, special assessments, interest, and state and federal grants receivable not collected soon enough after year-end to pay liabilities of the current period. Unearned revenues consist of state grants received but not yet earned. Unearned revenues and deferred inflows of resources at December 31, 2014, are summarized below by fund:

	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Special Assessments</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Total</u>
Major governmental funds					
General	\$ 315,820	\$ -	\$ 83,301	\$ 7,813	\$ 406,934
Road and Bridge	104,837	-	-	625,924	730,761
Health and Human Services	108,866	-	-	36,973	145,839
Forfeited Tax Sale	1,514,402	-	-	-	1,514,402
Nonmajor governmental funds					
Forest Development	19,944	-	-	-	19,944
Unorganized Road, Bridge, and Fire	2,345	-	-	-	2,345
Ditch	-	13,551	-	-	13,551
Total	<u>\$ 2,066,214</u>	<u>\$ 13,551</u>	<u>\$ 83,301</u>	<u>\$ 670,710</u>	<u>\$ 2,833,776</u>
Liability					
Unearned revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 719	\$ 719
Deferred inflows of resources					
Unavailable revenue	<u>2,066,214</u>	<u>13,551</u>	<u>83,301</u>	<u>669,991</u>	<u>2,833,057</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,066,214</u>	<u>\$ 13,551</u>	<u>\$ 83,301</u>	<u>\$ 670,710</u>	<u>\$ 2,833,776</u>

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plans

Plan Description

All full-time and certain part-time employees of Aitkin County are covered by defined benefit pension plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA administers the General Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Local Government Correctional Service Retirement Fund (the Public Employees Correctional Fund), which are cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans. These plans are established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. chs. 353 and 356.

General Employees Retirement Fund members belong to either the Coordinated Plan or the Basic Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security and Basic Plan members are not. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan and benefits vest after five years of credited service.

Police officers, firefighters, and peace officers who qualify for membership by statute are covered by the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund. Members who are employed in a county correctional institution as a correctional guard or officer, a joint jailer/dispatcher, or as a supervisor of correctional guards or officers or of joint jailer/dispatchers and are directly responsible for the direct security, custody, and control of the county correctional institution and its inmates, are covered by the Public Employees Correctional Fund. For members first eligible for membership after June 30, 2010, benefits vest on a graduated schedule starting with 50 percent after five years and increasing 10 percent for each year of service until fully vested after ten years.

PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefits are established by state statute. Defined retirement benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plans

Plan Description (Continued)

Two methods are used to compute benefits for General Employees Retirement Fund Coordinated and Basic Plan members. The retiring member receives the higher of a step-rate benefit accrual formula (Method 1) or a level accrual formula (Method 2). Under Method 1, the annuity accrual rate for a Basic Plan member is 2.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years of service and 2.7 percent for each remaining year. For a Coordinated Plan member, the annuity accrual rate is 1.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years and 1.7 percent for each remaining year. Under Method 2, the annuity accrual rate is 2.7 percent of average salary for Basic Plan members and 1.7 percent for Coordinated Plan members for each year of service. For Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members, the annuity accrual rate is 3.0 percent for each year of service. For Public Employees Correctional Fund members, the annuity accrual rate is 1.9 percent for each year of service.

For General Employees Retirement Fund members hired prior to July 1, 1989, whose annuity is calculated using Method 1, and for all Public Employees Police and Fire Fund and Public Employees Correctional Fund members, a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90. Normal retirement age is 55 for Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members and Public Employees Correctional Fund members, and either 65 or 66 (depending on date hired) for General Employees Retirement Fund members. A reduced retirement annuity is also available to eligible members seeking early retirement.

The benefit provisions stated in the previous paragraphs of this section are current provisions and apply to active plan participants. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits but are not yet receiving them are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated public service.

PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the General Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Public Employees Correctional Fund. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org; by writing to PERA at 60 Empire Drive, Suite 200, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103-2088; or by calling 651-296-7460 or 1-800-652-9026.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plans (Continued)

Funding Policy

Pension benefits are funded from member and employer contributions and income from the investment of fund assets. Rates for employer and employee contributions are set by Minn. Stat. ch. 353. These statutes are established and amended by the State Legislature. The County makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. General Employees Retirement Fund Basic Plan members and Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 9.10 and 6.25 percent, respectively, of their annual covered salary in 2014. Public Employees Police and Fire Fund members were required to contribute 10.20 percent of their annual covered salary in 2014. Public Employees Correctional Fund members were required to contribute 5.83 percent of their annual covered salary.

The County is required to contribute the following percentages of annual covered payroll in 2014:

General Employees Retirement Fund	
Basic Plan members	11.78%
Coordinated Plan members	7.25
Public Employees Police and Fire Fund	15.30
Public Employees Correctional Fund	8.75

The County's contributions for the years ending December 31, 2014, 2013, and 2012, for the General Employees Retirement Fund, the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund, and the Public Employees Correctional Fund, were:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
General Employees Retirement Fund	\$ 611,196	\$ 589,695	\$ 594,963
Public Employees Police and Fire Fund	177,600	161,718	154,652
Public Employees Correctional Fund	106,826	105,370	107,845

These contribution amounts are equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by state statute. Contribution rates increased on January 1, 2015, in the General Employees Retirement Fund Coordinated Plan (6.50 percent for members and 7.50 percent for employers) and the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund (10.80 percent for members and 16.20 percent for employers).

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

4. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans (Continued)

B. Defined Contribution Plan

Five Board members of Aitkin County are covered by the Public Employees Defined Contribution Plan, a multiple-employer, deferred compensation plan administered by PERA. The plan is established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. ch. 353D, which may be amended by the State Legislature. The plan is a tax qualified plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions by or on behalf of employees are tax deferred until time of withdrawal.

Plan benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings, less administrative expenses. For those qualified personnel who elect to participate, Minn. Stat. § 353D.03 specifies plan provisions, including the employee and employer contribution rates. An eligible elected official who decides to participate contributes 5.00 percent of salary, which is matched by the employer. Employees may elect to make member contributions in an amount not to exceed the employer share. Employee and employer contributions are combined and used to purchase shares in one or more of the seven accounts of the Minnesota Supplemental Investment Fund. For administering the plan, PERA receives 2.00 percent of employer contributions and 0.25 percent of the assets in each member account annually.

Total contributions by dollar amount and percentage of covered payroll made by the County during the year ended December 31, 2014, were:

	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Contribution amount	\$ 7,160	\$ 7,160
Percentage of covered payroll	5%	5%

Required contribution rates were 5.00 percent.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

5. Risk Management

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; or natural disasters. To manage these risks, the County has entered into a joint powers agreement with other Minnesota counties to form the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT). MCIT is a public entity risk pool currently operated as a common risk management and insurance program for its members. The County is a member of both the MCIT Workers' Compensation and Property and Casualty Divisions. For other risk, the County carries commercial insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance from the prior year. The amount of settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Workers' Compensation Division of MCIT is self-sustaining based on the contributions charged, so that total contributions plus compounded earnings on these contributions will equal the amount needed to satisfy claims liabilities and other expenses. MCIT participates in the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association with coverage at \$480,000 per claim in 2014 and \$490,000 per claim in 2015. Should the MCIT Workers' Compensation Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

The Property and Casualty Division of MCIT is self-sustaining, and the County pays an annual premium to cover current and future losses. MCIT carries reinsurance for its property lines to protect against catastrophic losses. Should the MCIT Property and Casualty Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess the County in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

A. Contingent Liabilities

Amounts received or receivable from grant agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of the expenditures that may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the County expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items (Continued)

B. Joint Ventures

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training

Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis Counties (excluding the City of Duluth) entered into a joint powers agreement, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, for the purpose of developing and implementing a private and public job training program. The United States Congress, through the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982, authorized states to establish “service delivery areas” to provide programs to achieve full employment through the use of grants. The counties identified above are defined as a “service delivery area,” and the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training is designated as the grant recipient and administrator for the service delivery area. The County is not a funding mechanism for this organization.

The governing body is composed of seven members, one member from the Board of Commissioners of each of the participating counties.

Separate financial information can be obtained from:

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training
820 North 9th Street, Suite 210
Virginia, Minnesota 55792

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board

The Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board was established through a joint powers agreement, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, for the purpose of helping to formulate land use plans for the protection, sustainable use, and development of lands and natural resources.

The joint powers are Aitkin, Cook, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Pennington, Roseau, and St. Louis Counties. Three elected County Commissioners from St. Louis County and two from each of the other counties comprise the membership of the Board. St. Louis County handles all of the financial transactions for this organization through its Northern Counties Land Use Board Agency Fund.

Aitkin County provided no funding to this organization during 2014.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (Continued)

Separate financial information can be obtained from:

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 North 5th Avenue West, #214
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Joint County Natural Resources Board

The Joint County Natural Resources Board was formed in 1985 under the authority of the Joint Powers Act, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, and includes Aitkin, Beltrami, Clearwater, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, and Roseau Counties. The purpose of the Joint County Natural Resources Board is to gather information on and formulate policies for the development, utilization, and protection of natural resources in this area of Minnesota and to ensure that there is an interrelated plan for the use and protection of both public and private resources.

Control of the Joint County Natural Resources Board is vested in the Joint County Natural Resources Board, which is composed of at least one resident of each county appointed by its respective County Board, as provided in the Joint County Natural Resources Board's bylaws.

In the event of dissolution of the Joint County Natural Resources Board, the net position of the Joint County Natural Resources Board at that time shall be distributed to the respective member counties in proportion to the contribution of each. Aitkin County provided no funding to this organization during 2014.

The Joint County Natural Resources Board has no long-term debt. Financing is provided by appropriations from member counties.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures

Joint County Natural Resources Board (Continued)

Complete financial information can be obtained from:

Joint County Natural Resources Board
Wayne Bendickson, Treasurer
Box 808
Baudette, Minnesota 56623

Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Services Board

Aitkin, Itasca, and Koochiching Counties entered into a joint powers agreement, creating and operating the Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Services Board, effective January 1, 1977. This agreement is entered into under the authority of the Community Health Services Act of 1976 and is pursuant to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 471.59 for the development and maintenance of an integrated system of community health services.

The Community Health Services Board is composed of two members from Aitkin and Koochiching Counties and three members from Itasca County, each appointed by the participating counties. Itasca County maintains the accounting records of the Community Health Services Board. Funding is obtained through federal, state, local, and private sources. Aitkin County provided no funding to this organization during 2014.

Complete financial information can be obtained from:

Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Services Board
Community Health Board Administrator
1209 S.E. 2nd Avenue
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures (Continued)

Mississippi Headwaters Board

The Mississippi Headwaters Board was established on February 22, 1980, by Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, and Morrison Counties, pursuant to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The purpose of the Board is to prepare, adopt, and implement a comprehensive land use plan designed to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and related shoreland areas within the counties.

The Mississippi Headwaters Board consists of eight members, one appointed from each participating county. Crow Wing County maintains the accounting records of the Board. Funding is obtained through federal, state, local, and private sources. Aitkin County provided \$1,500 to this organization during 2014.

Complete financial information can be obtained from:

Mississippi Headwaters Board
Land Services Building
322 Laurel Street
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

Snake River Watershed Management Board

The Snake River Watershed Management Board was established in April 1983 by Aitkin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties, pursuant to the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 471.59. The purpose of the Board is to coordinate the member counties' water plans and to develop objectives to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources.

The four-member Board consists of one County Commissioner from each of the participating counties. The Kanabec County Auditor is the fiscal agent for the Board. The Board is funded through an annual budget and participation in the administrative cost in the following percentages:

Aitkin County	20.8%
Kanabec County	49.5
Mille Lacs County	9.2
Pine County	20.5

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures

Snake River Watershed Management Board (Continued)

Aitkin County provided no funding to this organization during 2014. Upon dissolution, the personal property shall be returned to the member county contributing the same.

Complete financial information can be obtained from:

Snake River Watershed Management Board
Kanabec County Courthouse
18 North Vine Street
Mora, Minnesota 55051

Minnesota Counties Information System (MCIS)

Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Chippewa, Cook, Crow Wing, Dodge, Itasca, Koochiching, Lac qui Parle, Lake, Sherburne, and St. Louis Counties entered into a joint powers agreement, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, for the purpose of operating and maintaining data processing facilities and management information systems for use by its members.

MCIS is governed by a 13-member Board, composed of a member appointed by each of the participating county's Board of Commissioners. Financing is obtained through user charges to the member. Cass County is the fiscal agent for MCIS.

Each county's share of the assets and liabilities cannot be accurately determined since it will depend on the number of counties that are members when the agreement is dissolved.

Separate financial information can be obtained from:

Minnesota Counties Information System
413 Southeast 7th Avenue
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures (Continued)

Central Minnesota Community Corrections Agency

The Central Minnesota Community Corrections Agency was established by Crow Wing and Morrison Counties in 1974 under the authority of the Joint Powers Act, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, for the purpose of administering, budgeting, staffing, and operating correctional facilities. Effective January 1, 1992, Aitkin County became a member of the Agency. Crow Wing County maintains the accounting records of the Agency.

The governing board is composed of five County Commissioners from each of the participating counties.

The Central Minnesota Community Corrections Agency is funded through state grants and contributions from Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Morrison Counties. Aitkin County appropriated \$130,464 to the Agency in 2014.

In the event of dissolution of the Agency, the unexpended balance of monies and assets held by the Agency will be divided between the counties in proportion to their contributions.

Complete financial information can be obtained from:

Central Minnesota Community Corrections Agency
c/o Tom Rosenthal, Director
322 Laurel Street, Suite 32
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

East Central Regional Library

The East Central Regional Library was established by a joint powers agreement among Aitkin, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties to provide an efficient and improved regional public library service. The Library Board comprises 18 members--one County Board member and two appointees from each member county. Aitkin County's contribution for 2014 was \$234,366.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures

East Central Regional Library (Continued)

Complete financial statements of the East Central Regional Library can be obtained from:

East Central Regional Library
244 South Birch
Cambridge, Minnesota 55008

North Central Drug Task Force

Mille Lacs County, Aitkin County, Kanabec County, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe entered into a joint powers agreement, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, for the purpose of developing and implementing a group of local law enforcement officers, which shall be available to assist any of the parties in the investigation of major drug and gang crimes within the three-county area and tribal lands. The governing board consists of the Sheriff of each member county, the police chief of the Mille Lacs Tribal Police, and the County Attorney of the host agency.

At least annually, in January, each law enforcement member county contributes \$1,500, or its proportionate share thereof, to maintain the fund at \$6,000 per calendar year. In addition to the yearly \$1,500, each participating law enforcement agency contributes towards a matching grant fund, not to exceed \$6,000.

Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board

The Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board was established through a joint powers agreement, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 471.59 and 403.39, to provide for regional administration of enhancements to the Statewide Public Safety Radio and Communication System (ARMER) and to enhance and improve interoperable public safety communications.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

B. Joint Ventures

Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board (Continued)

The joint powers are the Counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, and St. Louis and the Cities of Duluth, Hibbing, International Falls, and Virginia. Control of the Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board is vested in a Board of Directors composed of one County Commissioner from each of the member counties and one City Council member from each of the member cities. In addition, there is one member from the Northeast Minnesota Regional Advisory Committee, one member from the Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio System User Committee, and one member from the Northeast Minnesota Owners and Operators Committee who are also voting members of the Board.

Itasca County is the fiscal agent for the Northeast Minnesota Regional Radio Board. Funding is provided by grants and contributions from participating members. Aitkin County contributed no funding in 2014.

Separate financial information can be obtained from:

Itasca County
123 N.E. 4th Street
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744-2847

C. Jointly-Governed Organizations

Aitkin County Family Services Collaborative

The Aitkin County Family Services Collaborative was established to create opportunities to enhance family strengths and support through service coordination and access to informal communication. Aitkin County has no operational or financial control over the Collaborative. The County is the fiscal agent for the Collaborative and accounts for it in an agency fund.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

C. Jointly-Governed Organizations (Continued)

Aitkin Municipal Airport Commission

The Aitkin Municipal Airport Commission is authorized by Minn. Stat. ch. 360. The Airport Commission is governed by a five-member Board of Directors--three members are appointed by the Aitkin County Board and two are appointed by the City of Aitkin. The proprietary interest in the Airport Commission's assets is divided two-thirds to Aitkin County and one-third to the City of Aitkin as per the contractual agreement. All cash of the Airport Commission is on deposit with the City of Aitkin at December 31, 2014. The City of Aitkin has opted to report the activities of the Aitkin Municipal Airport Commission as a discrete component unit in its annual financial report.

D. Related Organization

Aitkin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

The Aitkin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is a separate legal entity as authorized under Minn. Stat. ch. 469. The HRA operates a low-income housing program and elderly housing in the County. The HRA Board is appointed by the County Board. The County does not provide funding, has no obligation for the debt of the HRA, and cannot impose its will on the HRA.

E. Tax-Forfeited Land

The County manages approximately 221,200 acres of state-owned, tax-forfeited land. This land generates revenues primarily from recreational land leases and land and timber sales. Land management costs, including forestry costs, such as site preparation, seedlings, tree planting, and logging roads, are accounted for as current operating expenditures. Revenues in excess of expenditures are distributed to the County and cities, towns, and school districts within the County according to state statute.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-1

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 7,054,098	\$ 7,054,098	\$ 6,956,412	\$ (97,686)
Licenses and permits	459,630	459,630	384,776	(74,854)
Intergovernmental	2,717,131	2,717,131	3,608,474	891,343
Charges for services	908,619	908,619	1,198,615	289,996
Gifts and contributions	3,200	3,200	3,352	152
Investment earnings	330,000	330,000	744,325	414,325
Miscellaneous	242,069	242,069	355,303	113,234
Total Revenues	\$ 11,714,747	\$ 11,714,747	\$ 13,251,257	\$ 1,536,510
Expenditures				
Current				
General government				
Commissioners	\$ 238,388	\$ 238,388	\$ 233,830	\$ 4,558
Courts	105,100	105,100	76,182	28,918
County administration	339,194	339,194	336,998	2,196
County auditor	485,579	485,579	512,083	(26,504)
Motor vehicle	164,069	164,069	153,376	10,693
County treasurer	230,828	230,828	238,036	(7,208)
County assessor	806,421	806,421	822,108	(15,687)
Elections	128,706	128,706	101,968	26,738
Data processing	531,798	531,798	450,110	81,688
Central services	252,548	252,548	108,515	144,033
County attorney	884,427	884,427	912,186	(27,759)
County recorder	267,114	267,114	289,496	(22,382)
Planning and zoning	392,703	392,703	420,732	(28,029)
Buildings and plant	72,000	72,000	63,810	8,190
Maintenance	327,865	327,865	334,944	(7,079)
Veterans service officer	91,669	91,669	95,535	(3,866)
Motor pool	53,261	53,261	68,295	(15,034)
Housing and development	1,600	1,600	1,505	95
Total general government	\$ 5,373,270	\$ 5,373,270	\$ 5,219,709	\$ 153,561

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT A-1
(Continued)**

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Expenditures				
Current (Continued)				
Public safety				
County sheriff	\$ 2,054,551	\$ 2,054,551	\$ 2,017,773	\$ 36,778
800 MHz (ARMER) radio system	-	-	308,354	(308,354)
Boat and water safety	79,833	79,833	74,697	5,136
Snowmobile	33,321	33,321	33,312	9
Coroner	58,000	58,000	45,193	12,807
E-911 system	49,200	49,200	207,591	(158,391)
Community corrections	2,609,950	2,609,950	2,706,276	(96,326)
Crime victim	63,661	63,661	63,821	(160)
Civil defense	47,451	47,451	58,859	(11,408)
Other public safety	49,294	49,294	56,618	(7,324)
Total public safety	\$ 5,045,261	\$ 5,045,261	\$ 5,572,494	\$ (527,233)
Sanitation				
Solid waste	\$ 251,018	\$ 251,018	\$ 258,401	\$ (7,383)
Environmental health	73,426	73,426	69,315	4,111
Total sanitation	\$ 324,444	\$ 324,444	\$ 327,716	\$ (3,272)
Health				
Water wells	\$ 6,150	\$ 6,150	\$ 3,319	\$ 2,831
Culture and recreation				
Historical society	\$ 18,050	\$ 18,050	\$ 17,878	\$ 172
Parks	567,519	567,519	510,627	56,892
Regional library	233,637	233,637	235,171	(1,534)
Tourism	13,800	13,800	12,785	1,015
Total culture and recreation	\$ 833,006	\$ 833,006	\$ 776,461	\$ 56,545
Conservation of natural resources				
Cooperative extension	\$ 68,886	\$ 68,886	\$ 66,518	\$ 2,368
Soil and water conservation	109,613	109,613	236,738	(127,125)
Agricultural inspections	4,800	4,800	2,400	2,400
Agricultural society/County fair	21,756	21,756	24,037	(2,281)
Total conservation of natural resources	\$ 205,055	\$ 205,055	\$ 329,693	\$ (124,638)

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT A-1
(Continued)**

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Expenditures				
Current (Continued)				
Economic development				
Senior and youth programs	\$ 44,900	\$ 44,900	\$ 37,900	\$ 7,000
Airports	28,007	28,007	28,007	-
Community development	815	815	-	815
Other	37,983	37,983	43,855	(5,872)
Total economic development	\$ 111,705	\$ 111,705	\$ 109,762	\$ 1,943
Debt service				
Principal	-	-	20,816	(20,816)
Total Expenditures	\$ 11,898,891	\$ 11,898,891	\$ 12,359,970	\$ (461,079)
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)				
Expenditures	\$ (184,144)	\$ (184,144)	\$ 891,287	\$ 1,075,431
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Loans issued	-	-	21,777	21,777
Transfers in	310,000	310,000	371,274	61,274
Transfers out	-	-	(162,497)	(162,497)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 230,554	\$ (79,446)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 125,856	\$ 125,856	\$ 1,121,841	\$ 995,985
Fund Balance - January 1	8,892,377	8,892,377	8,892,377	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 9,018,233	\$ 9,018,233	\$ 10,014,218	\$ 995,985

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-2

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
ROAD AND BRIDGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 2,277,564	\$ 2,277,564	\$ 2,240,296	\$ (37,268)
Intergovernmental	5,812,384	5,812,384	6,151,327	338,943
Charges for services	315,200	315,200	269,814	(45,386)
Miscellaneous	37,000	37,000	295,905	258,905
Total Revenues	\$ 8,442,148	\$ 8,442,148	\$ 8,957,342	\$ 515,194
Expenditures				
Current				
Highways and streets				
Administration	\$ 481,079	\$ 481,079	\$ 476,348	\$ 4,731
Engineering	491,962	491,962	452,292	39,670
Maintenance	2,815,707	2,815,707	2,789,814	25,893
Construction	5,854,000	5,854,000	2,155,902	3,698,098
Equipment and maintenance shops	474,400	474,400	1,218,726	(744,326)
Total highways and streets	\$ 10,117,148	\$ 10,117,148	\$ 7,093,082	\$ 3,024,066
Intergovernmental				
Highways and streets	360,000	360,000	340,031	19,969
Total Expenditures	\$ 10,477,148	\$ 10,477,148	\$ 7,433,113	\$ 3,044,035
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (2,035,000)	\$ (2,035,000)	\$ 1,524,229	\$ 3,559,229
Fund Balance - January 1	8,459,193	8,459,193	8,459,193	-
Increase (decrease) in inventories	-	-	(177,373)	(177,373)
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 6,424,193	\$ 6,424,193	\$ 9,806,049	\$ 3,381,856

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-3

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 1,900,928	\$ 1,900,928	\$ 1,881,031	\$ (19,897)
Intergovernmental	3,019,355	3,019,355	3,378,036	358,681
Charges for services	210,200	210,200	212,636	2,436
Miscellaneous	391,473	391,473	315,315	(76,158)
Total Revenues	\$ 5,521,956	\$ 5,521,956	\$ 5,787,018	\$ 265,062
Expenditures				
Current				
Human services				
Income maintenance	\$ 1,634,362	\$ 1,634,362	\$ 1,782,303	\$ (147,941)
Social services	3,782,724	3,782,724	3,481,500	301,224
Total human services	\$ 5,417,086	\$ 5,417,086	\$ 5,263,803	\$ 153,283
Health				
Women, infants, and children	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,533	\$ 617
Nursing service	13,650	13,650	30,180	(16,530)
Transportation	37,000	37,000	35,905	1,095
Maternal and child health	14,814	14,814	7,991	6,823
Miscellaneous	637,286	637,286	680,342	(43,056)
Total health	\$ 704,900	\$ 704,900	\$ 755,951	\$ (51,051)
Total Expenditures	\$ 6,121,986	\$ 6,121,986	\$ 6,019,754	\$ 102,232
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (600,030)	\$ (600,030)	\$ (232,736)	\$ 367,294
Fund Balance - January 1	5,217,941	5,217,941	5,217,941	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 4,617,911	\$ 4,617,911	\$ 4,985,205	\$ 367,294

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT A-4

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FORFEITED TAX SALE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 406,929	\$ 201,929
Charges for services	30,000	30,000	25,709	(4,291)
Miscellaneous	1,353,000	1,353,000	1,701,815	348,815
Total Revenues	\$ 1,588,000	\$ 1,588,000	\$ 2,134,453	\$ 546,453
Expenditures				
Current				
General government				
Law library	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 19,954	\$ 10,046
Conservation of natural resources				
County development	\$ 335,324	\$ 335,324	\$ 224,155	\$ 111,169
Forfeited tax	1,206,823	1,206,823	899,785	307,038
Total conservation of natural resources	\$ 1,542,147	\$ 1,542,147	\$ 1,123,940	\$ 418,207
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,572,147	\$ 1,572,147	\$ 1,143,894	\$ 428,253
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 15,853	\$ 15,853	\$ 990,559	\$ 974,706
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers out	-	-	(798,500)	(798,500)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 15,853	\$ 15,853	\$ 192,059	\$ 176,206
Fund Balance - January 1	1,378,252	1,378,252	1,378,252	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 1,394,105	\$ 1,394,105	\$ 1,570,311	\$ 176,206

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

1. Budgetary Information

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for all governmental funds. All annual appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end.

By July of each year, all departments submit requests for appropriations to the County Administrator so that a budget can be prepared. Before September 30, the proposed budget is presented to the County Board for review. A final budget is adopted by the Board and certified to the Auditor no later than December 31.

The appropriated budget is prepared by fund, function, and department. Transfers of appropriations between departments require approval of the County Board. The legal level of budgetary control (the level at which expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations) is the fund level.

2. Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations

The following major funds had expenditures in excess of budget for the year ended December 31, 2014. These expenditures in excess of appropriations will be funded by future tax levies and the use of fund balance.

	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Excess</u>
General Fund	\$ 12,359,970	\$ 11,898,891	\$ 461,079

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

The Forest Development Special Revenue Fund is used to account for funds used in developing forests in the County. Financing is provided by forfeited tax settlements, grants, and payments in lieu of taxes.

The Unorganized Road, Bridge, and Fire Special Revenue Fund is used to account for funds used to provide road maintenance and fire protection for unorganized townships. Financing is provided by property taxes and grants.

The Ditch Special Revenue Fund is used to account for funds used for public improvements and services for the ditch system. Financing is provided by special assessments against the benefited property owners.

The Jail Bond Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of principal, interest, and related costs for the 2005 General Obligation Jail Refunding Bonds.

The Environmental Permanent Fund is used to account for funds collected from the sale of County-owned lakeshore leased lots. In accordance with 1998 Minn. Laws ch. 389, art. 16, § 31, the principal on these sales must remain in an environmental trust, and the interest may be spent only on improvement of natural resources.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Special Revenue Funds</u>		
	<u>Forest Development</u>	<u>Unorganized Road, Bridge, and Fire</u>	<u>Ditch</u>
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 826,093	\$ 517,316	\$ 45,465
Taxes receivable			
Prior	-	2,772	-
Special assessments receivable			
Prior	-	-	12,438
Noncurrent	-	-	1,113
Accounts receivable	295	-	-
Due from other funds	414,467	26,055	-
Due from other governments	19,944	-	-
	<u>1,260,799</u>	<u>546,143</u>	<u>59,016</u>
Total Assets	\$ 1,260,799	\$ 546,143	\$ 59,016
<u>Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</u>			
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$ 12,484	\$ 236	\$ 200
Salaries payable	13,216	-	-
Due to other funds	-	29,424	364
Due to other governments	-	6	-
	<u>25,700</u>	<u>29,666</u>	<u>564</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 25,700	\$ 29,666	\$ 564
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Unavailable revenue (Note 3.C.)	<u>19,944</u>	<u>2,345</u>	<u>13,551</u>
Fund Balances			
Restricted for			
Unorganized road, bridge, and fire	\$ -	\$ 514,132	\$ -
Ditch maintenance and repairs	-	-	56,853
Environmental uses	-	-	-
Assigned for			
Forest development	1,215,155	-	-
Unassigned	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,952)</u>
Total Fund Balances	\$ 1,215,155	\$ 514,132	\$ 44,901
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ 1,260,799	\$ 546,143	\$ 59,016

EXHIBIT B-1

<u>Total</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund Jail Bond</u>	<u>Permanent Fund Environmental</u>	<u>Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds (Exhibit 3)</u>
\$ 1,388,874	\$ 769	\$ 487,269	\$ 1,876,912
2,772	-	-	2,772
12,438	-	-	12,438
1,113	-	-	1,113
295	-	-	295
440,522	-	-	440,522
19,944	-	-	19,944
<u>\$ 1,865,958</u>	<u>\$ 769</u>	<u>\$ 487,269</u>	<u>\$ 2,353,996</u>
\$ 12,920	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,920
13,216	-	-	13,216
29,788	769	-	30,557
6	-	-	6
<u>\$ 55,930</u>	<u>\$ 769</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 56,699</u>
<u>\$ 35,840</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 35,840</u>
\$ 514,132	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 514,132
56,853	-	-	56,853
-	-	487,269	487,269
1,215,155	-	-	1,215,155
(11,952)	-	-	(11,952)
<u>\$ 1,774,188</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 487,269</u>	<u>\$ 2,261,457</u>
<u>\$ 1,865,958</u>	<u>\$ 769</u>	<u>\$ 487,269</u>	<u>\$ 2,353,996</u>

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Special Revenue Funds		
	Forest Development	Unorganized Road, Bridge, and Fire	Ditch
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ -	\$ 65,295	\$ -
Special assessments	-	-	1,510
Licenses and permits	524	-	-
Intergovernmental	218,840	77,398	-
Investment earnings	-	-	16
Miscellaneous	5,774	20	-
Total Revenues	\$ 225,138	\$ 142,713	\$ 1,526
Expenditures			
Current			
General government	\$ -	\$ 2,761	\$ -
Public safety	-	26,819	-
Highways and streets	-	48,781	-
Conservation of natural resources	672,386	-	1,385
Debt service			
Principal	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 672,386	\$ 78,361	\$ 1,385
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)			
Expenditures	\$ (447,248)	\$ 64,352	\$ 141
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Transfers in	\$ 414,467	\$ 26,055	\$ 1,337
Transfers out	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ 414,467	\$ 26,055	\$ 1,337
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (32,781)	\$ 90,407	\$ 1,478
Fund Balance - January 1	1,247,936	423,725	43,423
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 1,215,155	\$ 514,132	\$ 44,901

EXHIBIT B-2

Total	Debt Service Fund Jail Bond	Permanent Fund Environmental	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds (Exhibit 5)
\$ 65,295	\$ 5,484	\$ -	\$ 70,779
1,510	-	-	1,510
524	-	-	524
296,238	17	-	296,255
16	-	14,635	14,651
5,794	-	-	5,794
\$ 369,377	\$ 5,501	\$ 14,635	\$ 389,513
\$ 2,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,761
26,819	-	-	26,819
48,781	-	-	48,781
673,771	-	-	673,771
-	335,000	-	335,000
-	16,750	-	16,750
\$ 752,132	\$ 351,750	\$ -	\$ 1,103,882
\$ (382,755)	\$ (346,249)	\$ 14,635	\$ (714,369)
\$ 441,859	\$ 162,497	\$ -	\$ 604,356
-	-	(14,633)	(14,633)
\$ 441,859	\$ 162,497	\$ (14,633)	\$ 589,723
\$ 59,104	\$ (183,752)	\$ 2	\$ (124,646)
1,715,084	183,752	487,267	2,386,103
\$ 1,774,188	\$ -	\$ 487,269	\$ 2,261,457

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT B-3

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOREST DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Licenses and permits	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 524	\$ (2,476)
Intergovernmental	179,000	179,000	218,840	39,840
Miscellaneous	-	-	5,774	5,774
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Revenues	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 225,138	\$ 43,138
Expenditures				
Current				
Conservation of natural resources				
Forest resource	\$ 221,036	\$ 221,036	\$ 179,624	\$ 41,412
Reforestation	213,841	213,841	324,225	(110,384)
Memorial forest	128,592	128,592	114,136	14,456
Forest road	48,691	48,691	54,401	(5,710)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 612,160	\$ 612,160	\$ 672,386	\$ (60,226)
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (430,160)	\$ (430,160)	\$ (447,248)	\$ (17,088)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	221,500	221,500	414,467	192,967
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (208,660)	\$ (208,660)	\$ (32,781)	\$ 175,879
Fund Balance - January 1	1,247,936	1,247,936	1,247,936	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 1,039,276	\$ 1,039,276	\$ 1,215,155	\$ 175,879
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT B-4

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
UNORGANIZED ROAD, BRIDGE, AND FIRE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 68,800	\$ 68,800	\$ 65,295	\$ (3,505)
Intergovernmental	-	-	77,398	77,398
Miscellaneous	-	-	20	20
Total Revenues	\$ 68,800	\$ 68,800	\$ 142,713	\$ 73,913
Expenditures				
Current				
General government				
Other general government	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,761	\$ (61)
Public safety				
Emergency services	25,100	25,100	26,819	(1,719)
Highways and streets				
Other highways and streets	41,000	41,000	48,781	(7,781)
Total Expenditures	\$ 68,800	\$ 68,800	\$ 78,361	\$ (9,561)
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,352	\$ 64,352
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	-	-	26,055	26,055
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,407	\$ 90,407
Fund Balance - January 1	423,725	423,725	423,725	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 423,725	\$ 423,725	\$ 514,132	\$ 90,407

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT B-5

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
DITCH SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Special assessments	\$ 1,005	\$ 1,005	\$ 1,510	\$ 505
Investment earnings	14	14	16	2
Total Revenues	\$ 1,019	\$ 1,019	\$ 1,526	\$ 507
Expenditures				
Current				
Conservation of natural resources				
Other	1,385	1,385	1,385	-
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (366)	\$ (366)	\$ 141	\$ 507
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	-	-	1,337	1,337
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (366)	\$ (366)	\$ 1,478	\$ 1,844
Fund Balance - January 1	43,423	43,423	43,423	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 43,057	\$ 43,057	\$ 44,901	\$ 1,844

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT B-6

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
JAIL BOND DEBT SERVICE FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,484	\$ 5,484
Intergovernmental	-	-	17	17
Total Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,501	\$ 5,501
Expenditures				
Debt service				
Principal	\$ 380,000	\$ 380,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 45,000
Interest	26,250	26,250	16,750	9,500
Total Expenditures	\$ 406,250	\$ 406,250	\$ 351,750	\$ 54,500
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (406,250)	\$ (406,250)	\$ (346,249)	\$ 60,001
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	-	-	162,497	162,497
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (406,250)	\$ (406,250)	\$ (183,752)	\$ 222,498
Fund Balance - January 1	183,752	183,752	183,752	-
Fund Balance - December 31	\$ (222,498)	\$ (222,498)	\$ -	\$ 222,498

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT B-7

**BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PERMANENT FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Investment earnings	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,635	\$ 4,635
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers out	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>(14,633)</u>	<u>(4,633)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 2
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>487,267</u>	<u>487,267</u>	<u>487,267</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u><u>\$ 487,267</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 487,267</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 487,269</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2</u></u>

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT C-1

**COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ALL AGENCY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Balance January 1	Additions	Deductions	Balance December 31
<u>AGENCY</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 551,506	\$ 10,312,220	\$ 10,268,408	\$ 595,318
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ 551,506	\$ 10,312,220	\$ 10,268,408	\$ 595,318
 <u>COLLABORATIVE</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 93,646	\$ 41,133	\$ 82,850	\$ 51,929
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Accounts payable	\$ 93,646	\$ 41,133	\$ 82,850	\$ 51,929
 <u>STATE</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 121,469	\$ 3,292,647	\$ 3,288,161	\$ 125,955
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ 121,469	\$ 3,292,647	\$ 3,288,161	\$ 125,955

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT C-1
(Continued)**

**COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ALL AGENCY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Balance January 1	Additions	Deductions	Balance December 31
<u>TAXES AND PENALTIES</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ -	\$ 26,951,168	\$ 26,954,443	\$ (3,275)
Due from other governments	-	3,275	-	3,275
	\$ -	\$ 26,954,443	\$ 26,954,443	\$ -
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Due to other governments	\$ -	\$ 26,954,443	\$ 26,954,443	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ 26,954,443	\$ 26,954,443	\$ -
 <u>TOTAL ALL AGENCY FUNDS</u>				
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 766,621	\$ 40,597,168	\$ 40,593,862	\$ 769,927
Due from other governments	-	3,275	-	3,275
	\$ 766,621	\$ 40,600,443	\$ 40,593,862	\$ 773,202
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Accounts payable	\$ 93,646	\$ 41,133	\$ 82,850	\$ 51,929
Due to other governments	672,975	40,559,310	40,511,012	721,273
	\$ 766,621	\$ 40,600,443	\$ 40,593,862	\$ 773,202
	\$ 766,621	\$ 40,600,443	\$ 40,593,862	\$ 773,202

OTHER SCHEDULES

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT D-1

**SCHEDULE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Governmental Funds	Enterprise Fund	Total Primary Government
Appropriations and Shared Revenue			
State			
Highway users tax	\$ 5,271,693	\$ -	\$ 5,271,693
PERA rate reimbursement	28,165	-	28,165
Disparity reduction aid	10,540	-	10,540
Police aid	137,088	-	137,088
County program aid	658,867	-	658,867
Market value credit	138,656	-	138,656
Taconite credit	605,542	-	605,542
Enhanced 911	89,189	-	89,189
Aquatic invasive species	125,061	-	125,061
	\$ 7,064,801	\$ -	\$ 7,064,801
Reimbursement for Services			
State			
Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$ 567,050	\$ -	\$ 567,050
Payments			
Local			
Payments in lieu of taxes	\$ 1,842,586	\$ -	\$ 1,842,586
Grants			
State			
Minnesota Department/Board of			
Public Safety	\$ 148,589	\$ -	\$ 148,589
Transportation	268,673	-	268,673
Health	137,541	-	137,541
Natural Resources	820,651	-	820,651
Human Services	707,252	-	707,252
Veterans Affairs	10,000	-	10,000
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	37,900	-	37,900
Office of Environmental Assistance	63,803	-	63,803
	\$ 2,194,409	\$ -	\$ 2,194,409

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT D-1
(Continued)**

**SCHEDULE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Governmental Funds	Enterprise Fund	Total Primary Government
Grants (Continued)			
Federal			
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$ 290,818	\$ 4,387	\$ 295,205
Justice	68,496	-	68,496
Transportation	224,165	-	224,165
Health and Human Services	1,487,825	-	1,487,825
Homeland Security	100,871	-	100,871
	\$ 2,172,175	\$ 4,387	\$ 2,176,562
Total federal	\$ 2,172,175	\$ 4,387	\$ 2,176,562
Total state and federal grants	\$ 4,366,584	\$ 4,387	\$ 4,370,971
Total Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 13,841,021	\$ 4,387	\$ 13,845,408

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**BALANCE SHEET - BY DITCH
DITCH SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	Assets			
	Cash	Special Assessments Receivable	Due from Other Ditches	Total
County Ditches				
5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
24	-	369	1,500	1,869
28	-	-	-	-
29	80	-	-	80
30	27,994	1,294	11,861	41,149
34	526	978	-	1,504
36	2,755	1,208	-	3,963
37	-	8,426	-	8,426
42	-	-	-	-
43	-	-	-	-
63	505	1,113	-	1,618
66	1,279	-	-	1,279
Judicial Ditch				
2	12,326	163	-	12,489
Total	\$ 45,465	\$ 13,551	\$ 13,361	\$ 72,377

EXHIBIT D-2

Liabilities				Deferred Inflows of Resources	Fund Balances (Unassigned)/ Restricted	Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balance
Accounts Payable	Due to Other Funds	Due to Other Ditches	Total			
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,250	\$ 7,250	\$ -	\$ (7,250)	\$ -
200	-	-	200	369	1,300	1,869
-	-	1,287	1,287	-	(1,287)	-
-	-	-	-	-	80	80
-	-	-	-	1,294	39,855	41,149
-	-	65	65	978	461	1,504
-	-	65	65	1,208	2,690	3,963
-	-	2,173	2,173	8,426	(2,173)	8,426
-	-	935	935	-	(935)	-
-	-	76	76	-	(76)	-
-	364	-	364	1,113	141	1,618
-	-	1,510	1,510	-	(231)	1,279
-	-	-	-	163	12,326	12,489
\$ 200	\$ 364	\$ 13,361	\$ 13,925	\$ 13,551	\$ 44,901	\$ 72,377

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT D-3

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Federal Grantor Pass-Through Agency Grant Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Agriculture		
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Education Special Milk Program for Children	10.556	\$ 4,387
Passed Through Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Services Board Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	10.557	90,383
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services State Administrative Matching Grants for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	10.561	<u>171,342</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>\$ 266,112</u>
U.S. Department of Justice		
Direct Violence Against Women Formula Grants	16.588	<u>\$ 68,496</u>
U.S. Department of Transportation		
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Transportation Highway Planning and Construction Cluster Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	\$ 167,786
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Highway Planning and Construction Cluster Recreational Trails Program	20.219	<u>42,333</u>
Total U.S. Department of Transportation		<u>\$ 210,119</u>
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		
Passed Through Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Services Board Public Health Emergency Preparedness	93.069	\$ 20,034
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Total Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 93.558 \$201,307)	93.558	34,687
Medical Assistance Program (Total Medical Assistance Program 93.778 \$530,425)	93.778	24,081
Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to the States	93.994	23,537
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services Promoting Safe and Stable Families	93.556	4,063
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Total Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 93.558 \$201,307)	93.558	166,620
Child Support Enforcement	93.563	369,219
Refugee and Entrant Assistance - State Administered Programs	93.566	873

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**EXHIBIT D-3
(Continued)**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Federal Grantor Pass-Through Agency Grant Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		
Passed Through Minnesota Department of Human Services (Continued)		
Child Care and Development Block Grant	93.575	5,921
Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program	93.645	2,231
Foster Care - Title IV-E	93.658	127,330
Social Services Block Grant	93.667	106,917
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program	93.674	1,934
Children's Health Insurance Program	93.767	86
Medical Assistance Program	93.778	506,344
(Total Medical Assistance Program 93.778 \$530,425)		
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		\$ 1,393,877
Total Federal Awards		\$ 1,938,604

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AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

1. Reporting Entity

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents the activities of federal award programs expended by Aitkin County. The County's reporting entity is defined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

2. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards includes the federal grant activity of Aitkin County under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2014. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of Aitkin County, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of Aitkin County.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments*, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Pass-through grant numbers were not assigned by the pass-through agencies.

**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

4. Reconciliation to Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue

Federal grant revenue per Schedule of Intergovernmental Revenue	\$	2,176,562
Grants received more than 60 days after year-end, unavailable in 2014		
Medical Assistance Program		36,973
Unavailable in 2013, recognized as revenue in 2014		
State Administrative Matching Grants for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program		(29,093)
Child Support Enforcement		(53,018)
Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)		(67,131)
Highway Planning and Construction		(14,046)
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families		(24,336)
Foster Care - Title IV-E		(1,252)
Medical Assistance Program		(51,845)
Child Care and Development Block Grant		(470)
To correct the Disaster Grants - Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters) estimate for the 2013 unavailable revenue		(33,740)
Expenditures Per Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	\$	1,938,604

5. Subrecipients

Of the expenditures presented in the schedule, Aitkin County provided federal awards to subrecipients as follows:

CFDA Number	Program Name	Amount Provided to Subrecipients
16.588	Violence Against Women Formula Grants	\$ 68,496

6. Clusters

Clusters of programs are groupings of closely related programs that share common compliance requirements. Total expenditures by cluster are:

Highway Planning and Construction Cluster	\$	210,119
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**AITKIN COUNTY
AITKIN, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

I. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued: **Unmodified**

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weaknesses identified? **No**
- Significant deficiencies identified? **Yes**

Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted? **No**

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weaknesses identified? **No**
- Significant deficiencies identified? **Yes**

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs: **Unmodified**

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Section 510(a) of OMB Circular A-133? **Yes**

The major programs are:

State Administrative Matching Grants for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	CFDA #10.561
Child Support Enforcement	CFDA #93.563
Medical Assistance Program	CFDA #93.778

The threshold for distinguishing between Types A and B programs was \$300,000.

Aitkin County qualified as a low-risk auditee? **No**

II. FINDINGS RELATED TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEMS NOT RESOLVED

Finding 1996-005

Segregation of Duties

Criteria: Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control. A good system of internal control provides for an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion. In order to maintain proper internal control over County revenue transactions and cash assets, cash collection duties should be segregated so the basic functions of authorization, custody, and recording are not under the control of any one employee.

Condition: The County Treasurer does not segregate the duties of cash collection and receipting from the bank reconciliation process. In the County Auditor's Office, employees who receipt cash and process cash disbursements have the ability to make journal entries. Also in the County Auditor's Office, the person who processes payroll can also make pay rate and other payroll system changes. Finally, due to the limited number of office personnel within the various County offices, proper segregation of the accounting functions necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control is not possible.

Context: This is not unusual in operations the size of Aitkin County; however, the County's management should constantly be aware of this condition and realize that the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desirable from an internal control point of view.

Effect: Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the County's ability to detect misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements in a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Cause: The County informed us that, due to the available resources, it would not be able to hire additional qualified accounting staff to segregate duties in every department.

Recommendation: We recommend the County's elected officials and management be aware of the lack of segregation of duties and, where possible, implement oversight procedures to ensure that the internal control policies and procedures are being implemented by staff to the extent possible.

Client's Response:

County management is aware of this situation; however, the County lacks the resources to staff departments to levels needed to provide complete segregation of all functions. County management will review internal controls and transactions. Receipting procedures have been modified to allow for greater control and review. Processes have been implemented to provide for additional review of transactions.

Finding 2006-003

Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual

Criteria: County management is responsible for developing and monitoring its internal controls. An essential element of monitoring controls includes documenting the County's accounting policies and procedures. Significant internal controls to be documented would include areas such as receipts, disbursements, payroll, capital assets, journal entries, and credit cards.

Condition: Inquiries of County management found that significant internal controls of its accounting system have not been documented. The County does not have a current and comprehensive accounting policies and procedures manual, including risk assessment and monitoring procedures.

Context: Documentation and monitoring of internal controls is necessary to determine controls are in place and operating effectively. An accounting policies and procedures manual will enhance employees' understanding of their role and function in the internal control system, establish responsibilities, provide guidance for employees, improve efficiency and consistency of transaction processing, and improve compliance with established policies. It can also help to prevent deterioration of key elements in the County's internal control system and can help to avoid circumvention of County policies.

Effect: As a result of this condition, the County's practices may not be followed as intended by management, and employees may not understand the purpose of internal controls. The lack of risk assessment and monitoring procedures increases the risk of fraud.

Cause: The County has begun the process of developing formal policies and procedures that will include monitoring. Due to limited time and resources, the County has not been able to complete this project.

Recommendation: We recommend the County Auditor's Office continue its efforts to develop a comprehensive accounting policies and procedures manual including documentation for the internal control systems over receipts, disbursements, payroll, capital assets, journal entries, and credit cards. The manual should be prepared by appropriate levels of management and be approved by the County Board to emphasize its importance and authority. The documentation should describe procedures as they are intended to be performed, indicate which level of staff is to perform the procedures, and explain the design and purpose of control-related procedures to increase employee understanding and support of controls.

Client's Response:

The County has a policy manual in place that provides guidance to several areas of internal control with respect to reimbursement of employee travel expenses. However, departmental staffs are small in numbers making segregation of general ledger and other accounting duties difficult in several areas. County management is aware of this issue and will continue to make attempts to provide additional oversight wherever possible. County management will define duties and authorities with respect to accounting procedures to provide segregation wherever possible.

Finding 2006-005

Annual Adopted Budget and Budget Policy

Criteria: Written policies and procedures outline the specific authority and responsibility of County personnel, providing for accountability.

Condition: The Board has not developed and adopted a formal budget policy for management's administration of the County budget. The County Board adopts a summarized budget at the fund level on an annual basis.

Context: Written policies serve as a reference and training tool for new personnel and ensure that procedures remain in place despite personnel turnover. To be effective, an accounting policies and procedures manual must be complete, up-to-date, and readily available to all personnel who need it.

Effect: Budgeting procedures may not be clear or fully understood by all those involved in the budgeting process.

Cause: Informal budgeting procedures exist; however, these procedures have not been formalized into a written document to be approved by the Board and included in the County's accounting policies and procedures manual.

Recommendation: We recommend the County Board develop and adopt budget policies and procedures to include the following elements:

- which funds require budgets,
- the legal level of budgetary control,
- when budgets can be modified by management and when budget modifications require Board approval,
- the budgetary basis on which the budget is adopted, and
- procedures for monitoring the budget.

Client's Response:

The County follows a defined budget process where parameters are established by the County Board. Budgets are reviewed by County administration and the County Board prior to adoption. Currently, the County Board and County department heads receive budget reports on a monthly basis or upon request. The County will document these procedures into a formal policy.

Finding 2006-008

Computer Risk Management

Criteria: The County's management is responsible for identifying and managing the risks associated with its computer system. Computer risk management suggests that a formal plan be developed to identify the risks associated with the County's information system and document the internal controls implemented to address the identified risks.

Condition: The County has internal controls in place for its computer system. However, a formal risk assessment of existing controls over significant functions of the computer system has not been completed.

Context: The risk assessment is intended to determine if the internal controls established by management are still effective or if changes are needed to maintain a sound internal control structure. Changes may be necessary due to such things as organizational restructuring, updates to information systems, or changes to services being provided. Without a formal plan, computer risks could exist that are not identified on a timely basis.

Effect: Unprotected risks could result in a loss or compromise of data that could negatively influence County operations.

Cause: County management and staff are aware of the various risks associated with the County's computer systems. However, a formal plan to identify and manage these risks has not been developed.

Recommendation: We recommend County management document the significant internal controls in its computer system. We further recommend a formal plan be developed that calls for assessing and monitoring significant internal controls on a regular basis, but no less than annually. The assessment of risks should be documented and procedures implemented to address those risks found.

Client's Response:

The County has a policy covering Information Systems' use. Employees are required to sign off on this policy.

Finding 2013-001

Segregation of Duties - Health and Human Services Vendor Setup

Criteria: A good system of internal control provides for an adequate segregation of duties so that no one individual has the ability to both process disbursements and set up new vendors.

Condition: During our review of the Health and Human Services disbursements process, we noted that two individuals have the ability to both process disbursements and set up new vendors.

Context: Segregation of duties between processing of disbursements and vendor setup is limited due to the limited number of office personnel within the Health and Human Services Department.

Effect: Fictitious vendors could be added to the accounting system, increasing the likelihood of the County processing improper payments.

Cause: The County informed us that it does not have the economic resources needed to hire additional qualified accounting staff in order to adequately segregate duties in every department.

Recommendation: We recommend management re-evaluate whether segregation of duties between disbursements and vendor setup is possible. Formal written procedures should be developed to monitor new vendors entered into the system and should be included in the County's accounting policies and procedures manual.

Client's Response:

The County will review procedures for the establishment of new vendors. Procedures are to include segregation of duties, if possible, or review of new vendors by another staff member.

III. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARD PROGRAMS

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM NOT RESOLVED

Finding 2011-004

Eligibility

Program: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Medical Assistance Program (CFDA No. 93.778)

Pass-Through Agency: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Criteria: OMB Circular A-133 § .300(b) states that the auditee shall maintain internal control over federal programs that provides reasonable assurance that the auditee is managing federal awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a material effect on each of its programs.

Condition: The Minnesota Department of Human Services maintains the computer system, MAXIS, which is used by the County to support the eligibility determination process. During our testing of a sample of 40 case files, we noted that documentation was not available to support all participant eligibility requirements. We also noted instances where documentation maintained in the files did not match the information in the MAXIS system. We noted the following exceptions during our testing:

- Seven cases where portions of the application were not completed.
- Two cases where the applications were signed by a person representing a participant, but there was no support in the file documenting that the individual signing the application had legal authority to represent the participant.
- One case where a participant had the option of additional insurance but an insurance cost determination plan was not completed.
- Seven cases where the participant was over the asset threshold to receive Medical Assistance benefits with no documentation supporting why benefits were provided.

- Six cases where information entered into MAXIS did not match the documentation in the participant's electronic case file.
- Three cases did not contain verification of assets, such as the most recent bank statement or other type of confirmation.

We also noted there is no documented process to perform periodic supervisory reviews of case files.

Questioned Costs: Not applicable. The County administers the program, but benefits to participants in this program are paid by the State of Minnesota.

Context: The State of Minnesota contracts with the County Health and Human Services Department to perform the "intake function" (meeting with the social services client to determine income and categorical eligibility), while the Minnesota Department of Human Services maintains MAXIS, which supports the eligibility determination process and actually pays the benefits to the participants.

Effect: Missing information, or the improper input of information into MAXIS increases the risk that participants will receive benefits when they are not eligible. The lack of a documented supervisory review process increases the probability that staff errors will go undetected.

Cause: County program personnel entering case information into MAXIS did not ensure all required information was input into MAXIS correctly or that all required information was obtained and/or retained. The County does not have a formal process to perform periodic reviews of case files.

Recommendation: We recommend the County implement additional procedures to provide reasonable assurance that all necessary documentation to support eligibility determinations is properly obtained and input into MAXIS. Consideration should be given to providing additional training to program personnel. We further recommend the County implement a formal process to review case files. Documentation of those reviews, including the results and any corrective actions taken, should be maintained.

Corrective Action Plan:

Name of Contact Person Responsible for Corrective Action:

Health and Human Services Department - Financial Services

Corrective Action Planned:

- *Case reviews and review procedures for identifying and verifying assets and income of clients.*
- *Updating MAXIS with current information to reflect the client's current situation at the time of review.*

Anticipated Completion Date:

Immediate and on-going.

IV. OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEMS NOT RESOLVED

Finding 1999-003

Individual Ditch System Equity Balance Deficits

Criteria: Assets should exceed liabilities in order for the County to meet its obligations and maintain a positive fund balance. Under Minn. Stat. § 103E.655, drainage project costs must be paid from the drainage system account. Minn. Stat. § 103E.735, subd. 1, permits the accumulation of a surplus balance for the repair costs of a ditch system not to exceed 20 percent of the assessed benefits of the ditch system or \$100,000, whichever is greater.

Condition: As of December 31, 2014, the County had individual ditch systems where liabilities exceeded assets, resulting in individual deficit fund balance accounts.

Context: Six of the 13 active ditch systems had deficit fund balances as of December 31, 2014, totaling \$11,952. This is a decrease from the \$13,728 deficit balances reported in the prior year.

Effect: Allowing a ditch system to maintain a deficit fund balance, in effect, constitutes an interest-free loan from other individual ditch systems, and may be inconsistent with Minn. Stat. § 103E.655.

Cause: Ditch expenditures were necessary, and the ditch levies were not sufficient to cover all costs.

Recommendation: We recommend the County eliminate the ditch fund deficits by levying assessments pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.735, subd. 1, which permits the accumulation of a surplus balance to provide for the repair costs of a ditch system.

Client's Response:

As substantial portions of Aitkin County ditches are located in the Minnesota DNR managed ConCon area, there is not a payment source for these assessments. That leaves a small amount of privately owned property to cover any assessments. The County Board has authorized transfers from the County Development Fund to cover the deficits. The County Board has discussed seeking legislation as a solution option.

Finding 2006-011

Long Lake Conservation Center Enterprise Fund Deficit Cash Balance

Criteria: The County should maintain a positive cash balance in its funds in order for the County to meet its obligations.

Condition: As of December 31, 2014, the Long Lake Conservation Center Enterprise Fund had a cash deficit of \$528,805, resulting in the need for an interfund loan of that amount from the General Fund.

Context: As of December 31, 2014, the Long Lake Conservation Center Enterprise Fund had an interfund loan of \$528,805, which is an increase from the \$433,784 interfund loan reported in the prior year.

Effect: A fund with a deficit cash balance is, in effect, borrowing from County funds with positive cash balances.

Cause: The County has been attempting to reduce fund operating expenses in an effort to reduce the deficit.

Recommendation: We recommend the County continue to monitor the cash balance in the Long Lake Conservation Center Enterprise Fund and eliminate the deficit cash balance by a combination of increasing revenues and/or decreasing expenses, or by having the Board of County Commissioners authorize a permanent transfer from the County's General Fund.

Client's Response:

The County Board is aware of the cash deficit in the operating fund for Long Lake. The Board receives quarterly reports on the status of the LLCC finances. In 2009, the County Board took action to reduce operating expenses in an effort to reduce the accumulation deficits. In 2012, LLCC was able to reduce the deficit slightly. However, those changes have not eliminated the on-going deficit.

B. OTHER ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION

GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the independent organization that establishes standards of accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments. Effective for your calendar year 2015 financial statements, the GASB changed those standards as they apply to employers that provide pension benefits.

GASB Statement 68 significantly changes pension accounting and financial reporting for governmental employers that prepare financial statements on the accrual basis by separating pension accounting methodology from pension funding methodology. Statement 68 requires employers to include a portion of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) total employers' unfunded liability, called the "net pension liability" on the face of the County's government-wide statement of financial position. The County's financial position will be immediately impacted by its unfunded share of the pension liability.

Statement 68 changes the amount employers report as pension expense and defers some allocations of expenses to future years—deferred outflows or inflows of resources. It requires pension costs to be calculated by an actuary; whereas, in the past pension costs were equal to the amount of employer contributions sent to PERA during the year. Additional footnote disclosures and required supplementary information schedules are also required by Statement 68.

The net pension liability that will be reported in Aitkin County's financial statements is an accounting estimate of the proportionate share of PERA's unfunded liability at a specific point in time. That number will change from year to year, and is based on assumptions about the probability of the occurrence of events far into the future. Those assumptions include how long people will live, how long they will continue to work, projected salary increases, and how well pension trust investments will do. PERA has been proactive in taking steps toward implementation and will be providing most of the information needed by employers to report the net pension liability and deferred outflows/inflows of resources.



REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of County Commissioners
Aitkin County
Aitkin, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Aitkin County, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 28, 2015.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Aitkin County's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting.

A deficiency in internal control over financial reporting exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit the attention of those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 1996-005, 2006-003, 2006-005, 2006-008, and 2013-001, that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Aitkin County's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, contains seven categories of compliance to be tested in connection with the audit of the County's financial statements: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing. Our audit considered all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance with the provisions for tax increment financing as the cities administer the tax increment financing for Aitkin County.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that Aitkin County failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the County's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

Other Matters

Also included in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs are management practices comments and an other item for consideration. We believe these recommendations and information to be of benefit to the County, and they are reported for that purpose.

Aitkin County's Response to Findings

Aitkin County's responses to the internal control and management practices findings identified in our audit have been included in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs. The County's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting, compliance, and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions* and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

September 28, 2015

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REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of County Commissioners
Aitkin County
Aitkin, Minnesota

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Aitkin County's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the County's major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2014. Aitkin County's major federal programs are identified in the Summary of Auditor's Results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each of its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of Aitkin County's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about Aitkin County's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the County's compliance with those requirements.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, Aitkin County complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Other Matters

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance, which are required to be reported in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2011-004. Our opinion on each major federal program is not modified with respect to this matter.

Aitkin County's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as a Corrective Action Plan. Aitkin County's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of Aitkin County is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the County's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit the attention of those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we identified a deficiency in internal control over compliance, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as item 2011-004, that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Aitkin County's response to the internal control over compliance finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as a Corrective Action Plan. Aitkin County's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of OMB Circular A-133. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

September 28, 2015

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR